



IN THIS ISSUE

Olot to Learn	pg 2
Emerging Professionals	pg 3
Grant St Event Recap	pg 3
Architecture Awards	pg 4
Buffalo Architecture Foundation Update	pg 5
In Memory of Kumar	pg 6

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
QUEEN CITY
ARCHITECTURE RUN



PROGRAMMING

Our chapter’s programming committee has been hard at work to bring our members unique and high-quality continuing education opportunities as well as networking and community events. Be sure to click on the links below for additional information.

<p>May 4 @ 6 PM 6 Minute Building Stories (BAF) UB South Campus, Hayes Hall</p> <p>May 12 – May 20 Fundamentals of Lighting and More (IES) Wendel Companies 375 Essjay Rd, Williamsville (20) AIA HSW, USGBC and EIS learning units</p> <p>May 15 @ 5:30 PM APA 2017 Annual Awards Reception Resurgence Brewing Co 1250 Niagara St, Buffalo</p> <p>May 19 @ 4:30 PM Concrete Paver Technology Unilock 510 Smith St, Buffalo (1) AIA learning unit</p>	<p>May 24, 12PM - 4PM KSA-1 Cold Liquid Applied Roofing & Waterproofing Systems Kemper Systems 1200 N. American Dr, West Seneca (1.5) AIA learning unit – HSW</p> <p>June 7, 9 AM – 5 PM Conquer the Energy Code Environmental Education Associates 346 Austin St, Buffalo (7) AIA learning units – HSW</p> <p>June 28, 9 AM – 5 PM Conquer the Energy Code Environmental Education Associates 346 Austin St, Buffalo (7) AIA learning units – HSW</p>
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EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

Tracy Conhiser-Uy, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP and Deborah Pease, AIA

The National AIA Equity in Architecture Commission recently released their recommendations to meet the challenges of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the profession. The [“Diversity in the Profession of Architecture”](#) report provides insight to the progress made in past years, while also realizing there is still much work to be done. The [commission’s](#) report outlines recommendations for expanding and strengthening the profession’s commitment to EDI in every practice. Of many eye-opening details, the report identifies on these five areas of focus.

- Leadership Development
- Firms/workplace/studio culture
- Excellence in architecture
- Education and career development
- Marketing, branding, public awareness and outreach

Our AIA Buffalo/WNY chapter’s Diversity Committee is working diligently to strengthen the professions commitment for all. Equity is good for your practice. Let’s work together to understand how we can all make a difference. Want to learn more? Visit our web page for more information on the report referenced above and details on how you can help.

AIA 2017 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The American Institute of Architects, as part of the global community, champions a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion within the profession of architecture to create a better environment for all.

Achieving this vision has a direct impact on the relevance of our profession and the world’s prosperity, health and future.

OLOT TO LEARN

LESSON ONE | KENNETH MACKAY, AIA

In late February/early March, when a general public is debating the Oscars candidates, more than a few architects are curious about who will win the annual Pritzker Prize. It is not so much that architects agree that the Pritzker Prize is the 'gold standard' of the profession or even if such an award is indeed necessary. What makes the Pritzker interesting is that the debate that follows the award makes for fascinating reading, particularly since the winner is often seen as representing a specific set of values. It was a bit of a surprise last year when Alejandro Aravena was announced as the winner. Not because Aravena was undeserving, but because in bestowing the award the jury recognized both the quality of his built work and his contribution to the larger debate on affordable housing through his formation of Elemental. The selection appeared to be a shift away from international 'star architects' towards a stronger sense of social responsibility. However, Aravena's selection proved to be more controversial than one would have expected when Patrik Schumacher berated the jury for focusing the selection criteria on 'humanitarian architecture'. The debate reached its high point late last year when Schumacher unveiled his neo-liberal 'Urban Policy Manifesto' which included a number of highly controversial ideas, such as the elimination of all forms of social housing and the privatization of public space. This should have come as little surprise since Schumacher has written that he "*repudiates a regressive and unproductive (explicit or implicit) anti-capitalist bias in most of the political and moral positions drawn into architecture by architectural academics and critics.*" (Schumacher; *The Stages of Capitalism and the Styles of Architecture*).

Schumacher is partially right in that architecture had traditionally been analyzed as a profession rather than a business (Abbott 1988). According to Abbott, the profession as an institutional form was historically seen as infused with values of fee for service, independence and license. However, by the late 1980's a decade of neo-liberalism had created a near universal belief that increased 'managerialism' was necessary for the professions to maintain its position in society. The agenda of professional organizations has clearly been structured by this trajectory. Robert Gutman (1988) took a more fine grained approach to the description, differentiating architectural practices based on their market orientation and way of competing, distinguishing 'strong-delivery firms' (build many buildings but not seen as innovative designers) and 'strong-service firms' (able to build quality design, but are first and foremost business-oriented) and 'strong-idea firms'. The formalization of management structures has led large international firms, for the most part, to attempt to erase the distinction described by Gutman, attempting to 'brand' themselves in the image of the 'idea' firm through the mimicry of avant-garde strategies, Schumacher's quasi-theory being one example of these strategies.

Into this political and economic foray, the awarding of this year's Pritzker Prize to RCR Arquitectes from the small city of Olot in the Province of Girona, Catalonia, Spain can be seen to provide some welcome relief. Although it is possible that the selection will generate the type of discussion that followed last year's award, the selection may represent a small triumph for architects working away from the large metropolitan centers. The jury commented that '*RCR established their office in Olot, resisting the call of the metropolis in favor of remaining closely connected to their roots*'. If nothing else, a review of their work leaves one wondering how they are able to implement such innovative projects in such a relatively remote location.

Last year I wrote in this newsletter that local architects no longer had a significant voice in the built environment in Buffalo. Several architects contacted me to discuss the issue. Most discussions began with the question; 'what can be done?' There are several answers to this question. The first is to become familiar with the research regarding how various architects across the globe such as RCR have created the milieu in which their work is both generated and received.

The most interesting recent research on architectural practice no longer focuses on management practices. In contrast to articles published in the trade journals, this research has been conducted by researchers from outside the field of architecture and attempts to link architecture with other creative endeavors by understanding the environment in which it is created. It is driven by the fact that cultural industries have become important instruments in advanced urban economies which create employment and generate income. This research has been motivated by a belief that "*it is vital to understand innovation in creative sectors as it determines the long-term competitive viability and sustainability of cultural production systems in a globalizing economy*" (Sunley, 2008). Through this research we are able to see the production of architecture in a new light. If we look closely at this we may be able to take increased control over the circumstances that control this production.

Researchers such as Paolo Tombesi examine the flow of information relative to design innovation, seeking to uncover the situational prerequisites necessary for innovation in a specific community. Tombesi has also (2005) attempted to determine the impact of innovation upon a specific design and construction community. A third aspect of his research involves measuring and comparing the 'location' of design innovation within the construction industry. Rather than starting with the assumption that all innovation begins with the architect, Tombesi has attempted to articulate and measure how innovation is pervasive across the spectrum of activities involved with a project including programming, construction scheduling, etc.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

UPDATE | KELLY WASSUM, ASSOC. AIA

On Monday, March 6th, the Emerging Professionals Committee hosted the latest installment of their semi-annual Portfolio Review Workshop, held at the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning. David Marcoux from Foit-Albert Associates led the event, and was joined by Gwen Howard, also from Foit-Albert Associates, as well as Timothy Rider and Kelly Wassum from Trautman Associates.

The event was well attended by some 15-20 participants, mostly UB Architecture undergraduate students. Mr. Marcoux began with a brief presentation about organizing and preparing a professional portfolio. The group discussed some design opportunities and common pitfalls in creating professional design documentation. Workshop attendees also discussed several logistical items to consider when pursuing employment opportunities, from the perspective of the employer.

The proceedings then shifted from formal presentation and round table discussion to informal desk critiques. Participants were given eight minutes of one-on-one discussion with each panelist to show their draft portfolio work and receive constructive feedback, then rotate to another panelist to hear the different perspectives of all four professional participants.

This time around, the portfolio review event was done in conjunction with a precursor review workshop conducted in February by the UB chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students, also led by Mr. Marcoux. Many of the students from this first event were also in attendance at the EP workshop to discuss their interim progress. For information regarding the next portfolio workshop, please contact our Emerging Professionals Committee.



(Olot to Learn continued from page 2)

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery recently selected OMA for its long range plan. Based on this selection, another example which may be of special interest to architects in Buffalo is a study completed by Robert C. Kloosterman (2008) in the *Journal of Economic Geography*. Kloosterman explored the different conduits for the exchange of knowledge between the architectural firms referred to as the ‘superdutch’ firms that had achieved international prominence. The case of strong-idea architects in Amsterdam and Rotterdam displayed a spatial concentration; a specialized labor market where we see the contours of a ‘dedicated local institutional infrastructure’ with both formal (e.g. Berlage Institute, NAI, grant system) and more informal components (e.g. Koolhaas’ OMA as an informal postgraduate school). Kloosterman concluded that spatial proximity may generate important emergent effects such as mutual learning and cultural synergies through knowledge spillovers, which underpin sustained innovation. Kloosterman concludes that *“attention to the aesthetic qualities of architectural design is widespread; the socio-economic aspects of architectural design have attracted much less attention. Analyses of architectural design primarily from the perspective as an economic activity or cultural industry are still quite rare but apparently increasing.”*

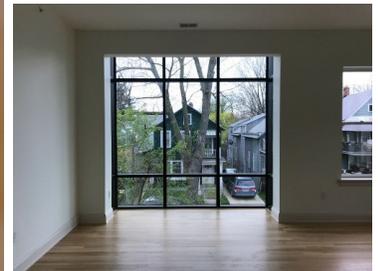
Rather than looking at the formal, material and spatial qualities of the work of the latest Pritzker prize winners, perhaps there is a lot to learn from examining how these architects have constructed the clients and social environment which has nourished the development of this work.

363 Grant Street Tour

On Friday, April 25th, architects and community members enjoyed a tour of the latest building to open on Grant Street. The project, completed by HES Properties I, LLC located at 363 Grant Street, was the site of the former Ellen Terry Theater. Architect John Wingfelder, AIA and general contractor BRD Inc. were commissioned for the 12,600 sq ft building with 11 residential units and 2,500 SF of ground level retail space. 363 Grant Street is the first new building in Buffalo to completely conform to the recently adopted Buffalo Green Code while incorporating geothermal heating & cooling systems.



Images provided courtesy of Seth Amman.



AIA BUFFALO/WNY 2017 ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

MICHAEL ANDERSON, AIA



2016 AIA Buffalo/WNY Award Scott Bieler Clinical Sciences Center FXFLOWLE

The AIA Buffalo/WNY chapter is getting ready for the 2017 Architecture Awards which are presented as a partnership between the AIA Buffalo/WNY chapter and the Buffalo Architecture Foundation (BAF). **Submission applications will be available very soon, so start thinking about people and projects that are worthy of recognition.**

These awards were established in order to recognize dedicated individuals and firms from the local chapter. It is the goal of AIA Buffalo/WNY and the BAF to promote the Chapter and each firm through the recognition of dedicated service to the profession of architecture in the WNY region.

This year we will continue the program of having two separate events; The Service Awards will be presented to remarkable people whose efforts have positively shaped the profession through their dedication to their craft, the community, and the built environment. As part of the Service Awards program, the Buffalo Architecture Foundation (BAF) pro-bono awards will be presented to Architects or allied practitioners in the construction industry, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture and planning who have aided not-for-profit clients. Design Awards will be presented to outstanding projects, both built and unbuilt that exemplify the best of quality, innovation, and collaboration in the profession.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Classic website to sunset

The classic AIA website (accessible through the banner on the top right of aia.org) will be sunset through the following two-step process in April: Removal of the classic website banner on April 7 and removing public access to the classic website by mid-April.

New Firm Benchmarking Tool

AIA's [Firm Benchmarking Tool](#) will help firms compare their data with newly available AIA Firm Survey data. It is an online interactive portal that launches with a module containing three key performance indicators of financial success – revenue per employee, profitability, and share of repeat clients.

AIA Benefit's Guide for Members

The purpose of the Members Benefit Guide is to introduce benefits, services, resources, and programs that help members get started, connected, engaged, and ahead. [Click here to view.](#)

ONLINE EVENT

EXPLORE REVISED
2017 AIA CONTRACT
DOCUMENTS

May 11, 2017 2pm–3pm

This program will give attendees an insight into the AIA's revision process and the key changes for 2017.

Attendees will understand how the revisions will impact their practice; and examine how the new Sustainable Projects Exhibit can be used to provide a positive outcome on the health, safety and welfare of building occupants.

Speakers:

Ken Cobleigh, Esq.

Susan Van Bell, Esq.



BUFFALO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

BUFFALO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION UPDATE

COURTNEY CREENAN-CHORLEY, AIA

continuing many successful relationships and forming even more this year.

Some of our upcoming and recent events include:

BAF participated in the **YIMBY Festival** at Tri-Main Center on April 29th. The event featured nearly 100 community groups and organizations, each with a desire to support local communities. To learn more about the movement, check out their website <https://buffaloyimby.org>.

BAF was selected to pitch our ideas at the **Next Generation United's Pitch 10**. BAF was one of 10 non-profits pitching our ideas to the audience for the chance to win a cut of \$10,000 for our programs. Board members presented a new program, Little Free Libraries Design Competition, that will be sure to have positive impacts on Buffalo's neighborhoods. Although BAF was not ultimately selected, we received great exposure and met a lot of wonderful people.

 Spring installment of **6 Minute Building Stories (6Mbs)** will be held **Thursday May 4** from 6-9PM at the University at Buffalo's Hayes Hall, home to the School of Architecture and Planning. With special guest emcee, fast-paced presentations, and riveting and diverse speakers, it will make for a fun and interesting evening.

This summer will launch a **new design competition** curated by BAF, to design, construct, and install **Little Free Libraries (LFL)** throughout the City of Buffalo. The LFL movement places small-scale book shelters in neighborhoods and is based on the premise of "take a book, leave a book". This design competition also seeks to promote literacy, expand literary horizons, cultivate generosity, and encourage design innovation. Children from middle income homes have, on average, 13 books per child. Conversely, it is estimated that there is only 1 book for every 300 children in low income neighborhoods. Perhaps the most fundamental problem with current literary campaigns is that they ignore the real problem: lack of access to books for children of poverty.



BAF encourages all individuals, groups, and firms to submit their designs for consideration to the Little Free Library Design competition! Finalists will be selected through a juried process and receive a stipend towards construction and installation while working with their assigned location host to finalize details. Host locations will be in neighborhoods which need them the most based on average age, income, proximity to public libraries, and ability to host a LFL. Submissions will be open in **July 2017** on BAF's website.

Buffalo Architecture Foundation (BAF) is off to another strong start in 2017 and it will be another year full of programming for all ages and architectural fluency. BAF's mission to build appreciation from the ground up, can and will be seen in all our programs while nurturing creative cooperation with the AIA and other regional cultural organizations to promote and celebrate architecture, design, and construction. Whether it is Buffalo Public Schools or Lakeshore Central Schools, the Darwin Martin House or the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, we are

Our partnership with Garden Walk Buffalo to share **Garden (or Building) Stories** continues in 2017. Garden Walk participants can share additional stories of their unique spaces on the BAF website through written stories, photography, poems and drawings. Look for BAF signs along the way to find stories hosted on our website. Participate in Garden Walk? Submit your story here: <http://buffaloarchitecture.org/programs/building-stories/garden-walk-building-stories/garden-story-submission/>

BAF will be partnering with Lakeshore Public Schools in May to run an afterschool program for **Native American Programming** for middle and high school students. Using Native design principles as a guide, students have designed and built models of homes and community centers for "clients" of varying needs. The program also includes Native American speakers sharing their experiences within the architecture, engineering, and construction industries.

Our national award-winning **Architecture + Education** program with Buffalo Public Schools is back this fall! Over the last 10 years, over 3,500 children grades pre-k through 8, in 115 classrooms, have participated in the program. Founded over 10 years ago, Architecture + Education was founded to increase awareness and involvement in the built and natural environment and to use architecture as a multidisciplinary form of active learning.

AIA Buffalo/WNY is extremely lucky to have a group of partners who have signed on as part of our Allied Members program. The money raised from these memberships is primarily used to pay for the chapter scholarship and special event programming and without the help of these companies and individuals we would not be able to provide all the benefits that we strive to. The chapter would like to extend a big thank you to the following:

AVALON DOCUMENT SERVICES - BUFFALO

BAER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

CHARLIE LONG (KELLEY BROS)

CME ASSOCIATES

CONSTRUCTION EXCHANGE OF BUFFALO & WNY, INC.

JIM CAVANAUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

M/E ENGINEERING, P.C.

NUSSBAUMER & CLARKE, INC.

PARKITECTS, INC.

PELLA WINDOWS - SCRANTON

PRENTICE OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS

RIGIDIZED METALS

ROCHE & COMPANY, LTD.

RP OAK HILL BUILDING COMPANY INC.

SJB / EMPIRE GEO SERVICES

SUGARMAN LAW

UNILOCK INC., BUFFALO

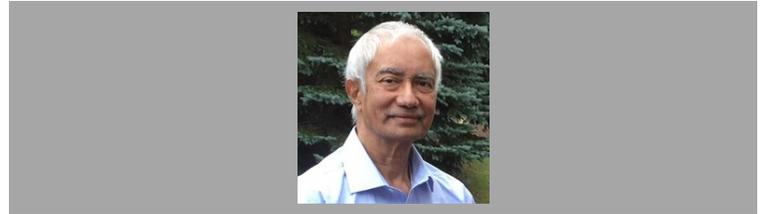
We are still looking for our first architectural firm to sign on, with special benefits provided to those firms that choose to join. For further information and to download the application and informational PDF please visit the [website](#).

Kumar Vijaykumar

April 26, 1947—January 29, 2017

Many of our chapter members interacted with Kumar Vijaykumar, official for the state of New York's Code Enforcement Department; often with unique concerns about projects, or to ask for code guidance when we had exhausted all our other resources. A wealth of knowledge and an expert in his field, Kumar was undoubtedly approachable and a valuable resource. He was a registered Professional Engineer in New York and Georgia.

New York State professionals will miss Kumar for his expertise and good-nature.



(Buffalo Architecture Foundation continued from page 5)



BAF will again sponsor the **Pro Bono Publico Awards** for Design Excellence and Distinguished Service at this year's AIA award ceremonies. Buffalo and WNY architects, engineers, landscape architects and allied professions are all eligible to submit their work for consideration. In the City of Good Neighbors, there are plenty of good works being performed. Let's celebrate it!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and visit our website to keep up on *all* our events. More events will be announced throughout the summer for kids, adults, and the whole family!



Looking to volunteer? We'd love to have you! BAF is run solely on generous volunteer efforts.

If interested in volunteering at any of our events or committees, big or small, please email info@buffaloarchitecture.org.