KATHLEEN LUGOSCH FAIA

Professor Kathleen Lugosch, FAIA is retiring after a remarkable 33 years at UMass. She joined the Art (interior design) faculty part-time in 1988 and full-time in 1995. Her dream was to grow this program into an accredited, accessible degree. Working with colleagues from multiple departments around the university she advocated for the Architecture + Design Program, and helped earn university and state approvals for the Master of Architecture degree. Friends and former students of the Architecture Department (interior design, architecture, historic preservation, design) are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of design education at UMass Amherst, and honor Kathleen. There will be tours, panel discussions, light lunch, and remarks by Professor Emerita Lugosch.

Building Collage explores the medium of collage as a powerful device for design thinking, with potential to shape studio production and professional practice. For this exhibition, co-curators Carey Clouse and Sandy Litchfield call attention to collage as both a method and medium for design practitioners to extend the boundaries and potentials of their work. Building Collage not only leverages the interests and strengths of the Design Building community, across faculty, student cohorts and staff groups, but it also marshals the department’s interest in interdisciplinary design thinking.

COVER STORY

The new Enlite cannabis retail store on Damon Rd. is a renovation of the former Webster’s Fish Hook restaurant building. The Fish Hook building was built as a stand some 50 years ago and was added onto many times. The majority of the building envelope existed with a small addition on the north side. Western red cedar siding, a black standing seam metal roof, black windows and trim, and new skylights are just a few of the upgrades. The existing roof trusses are exposed on the inside to give added height and volume to the low-slung building.

OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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The WMAIA Newsletter is published four times a year. It is circulated to all members, advertisers and subscribers. Please direct all newsletter correspondence to Rachael Chase, at editor@wmaia.org. Articles, photos, notices of events and other information are welcome. Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the WMAIA. The Editor reserves the right to reject or revise material as space and subjective opinion permit.

COVER PHOTO: KRA

SAVE THE DATE!

2021 AIA New England Design Awards

October 16th

The 2021 AIA New England Design Awards Program, hosted this year by AIA Central Massachusetts, will be held on October 16 at Polar Park in Worcester, Massachusetts. Renowned urban planner and longtime baseball consultant, Janet Marie Smith, will deliver the keynote speech at the Awards Dinner.
On August 12, 2021, WMAIA hosted its first in-person program since the beginning of the pandemic. It was both wonderful and weird to have the opportunity to see colleagues and enjoy a tour of two buildings at UMass Amherst.

The new Worcester Dining Commons by Perry Dean Rogers with Connor Architecture (interiors) is a new 87,000 SF building constructed on the former Parking Lot 63, north of the Integrated Science Building. Ryan Senkier AIA of Perry Dean Rogers led the tour of the building. The first floor includes a new retail Café, lounge spaces, and a small fitness center run by Campus Recreation. The second floor houses the new Dining Commons with seating for approximately 800, hosting a number of food stations serving a world of cuisines. On the third floor is Commonwealth, a full-service restaurant & bar and the Student Life Suite that features soundproof music practice rooms, meeting spaces for student groups and a contemplative space. Rounding out the third floor is the Auxiliary Enterprises administrative office suite.

Sited directly along North Pleasant Street, the new Worcester Commons has a West-facing site plaza out in front of the building to allow for gathering, eating, and events to be expanded from within the building during the warmer weather. Originally built in 1957, the UMass Student Union was designed by architect and UMass alumnus Louis Warren Ross in the modernist style. Located at the center of the UMass Amherst campus, it was the first campus building dedicated to student organizations and extracurricular activities. The facility contains shared common areas, a large ballroom, and dedicated offices for student organizations and other campus services. At the time of its construction, the Student Union was the largest building on campus, and served 4,800 students. Today, the building supports over 30,000 students and 200 registered student organizations (RSOs). The $62 million renovation, designed by Shepley Bulfinch, has revitalized the facility as a modern hub for student activity and interaction, and reconnected the building to the surrounding landscape.

As a “global campus living room,” the design embraces student entrepreneurship, organizations, and events to support collaboration, multidisciplinary learning, and leadership.

The building opened in fall 2020 and is anticipating LEED Silver Certification.
The UMass campuses in Dartmouth and Amherst boast some truly fine examples of Brutalist architecture. From the Paul Rudolph designed campus at Dartmouth to Amherst, with major works by Marcel Breuer, Paul Rudolph and Kevin Roche, the UMass system is responsible for the care, repair and conservation of significant Brutalist architecture. This poses a challenge for UMass facilities staff and the architects and engineers engaged to work on these buildings.

This October, a two-day conference – Brutalism + the Public University: Past, Present, and Future – organized by the UMassBrut collaborative focuses on the preservation, adaptation and reuse of Brutalist architecture using the historically significant structures on the campuses of UMass Dartmouth and UMass Amherst as prime examples. Participants will explore the challenges of maintaining and repairing the external envelope of large cast-in-place or precast concrete facades, upgrading the mechanical systems with an emphasis on energy conservation, addressing egress and accessibility requirements, and the conservation of materials, specifically concrete.

Sessions will also focus on Brutalist interiors, landscape and public architecture context. The benefit of building support for preserving and adapting these buildings is crucial both for historic preservation and for capitalizing on the embodied carbon in these massive concrete structures.

The 2-day conference offers a maximum of 9.5 HSW credits and is supported by WMAIA and the BSA.

Participants can register for one or both days. For more information about the conference and to register visit: www.umassbrut.org
Licensing advisors from registration boards, state components, firms and universities converged in-person or virtually for NCARB’s biannual Licensing Advisors Summit in Miami this year from August 5-7. The event was kicked off Thursday night with the opening keynote, NCARB’s Next 100 Years, given by Harry Falconer, VP Experience + Education, NCARB; Alfred Vidaurri, NCARB’s first Latino President; and Mike Armstrong, CEO, NCARB. Other keynote speakers featured throughout the summit included Corey Clayborne ("Empowering the Next Generation: Mentorship, Leadership, and Community Engagement"), FAIA, Executive Vice President, AIA Virginia; and Evelyn Lee ("Raising the Bar, Agile Practices for a Sustainable Profession"), FAIA, Senior Experience Designer, Slack Technologies. Sessions included topics on Diversity, Program Updates, State Options for Licensure, Best Practices, Licensure for International Candidates, and a very entertaining NCARB Gameshow. Each day was capped with a networking reception and some much needed catch-up time with other advisors from across the country.

All in-person participants wore masks and had their own appropriately distanced tables during sessions. Hand sanitizer, wipes and masks were provided. Virtual participants were on screen in the ballroom and breakout rooms. Thought provoking discussions aimed at moving the needle swirling around the future of licensure and the ARE; new pathways to licensure and demonstrating competency; diversity and data; and adjusting to the hybrid office. As a hybrid event held during a pandemic, NCARB’s LAS delivered on motivating, empowering and advocating for licensing candidates and licensing advisors.

Look for the next Summit in two years! In the meantime, NCARB wants input from everyone on the path to licensure and post licensure regarding the future of licensing. Visit https://analysisofpractice.com/ for your chance to weigh in! Looking for a licensing advisor or want to join our community? https://www.ncarb.org/get-involved/architect-licensing-advisors-community

Looking for the latest ARE updates for you or the candidates in your office? Join WMAIA’s monthly EP Hour and e-mail blasts.

Kerry Bartini AIA, NCARB, AIA Massachusetts State Licensing Advisor
THINGS TO DO + SEE IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES TURRELL: C.A.V.U.

“I can make the sky any color you choose.” — James Turrell

Thirty years in the making, James Turrell’s largest free-standing circular Skyspace — titled C.A.V.U. — opens on the MASS MoCA campus in May 2021. Measuring 40 feet in diameter and 40 feet high, this repurposed concrete water tank transforms into one of Turrell’s signature immersive light installations, carving out a small piece of the sky and framing it as a canvas with infinite depth. C.A.V.U. joins the exhibition Into the Light, a long-term retrospective of Turrell’s work that currently includes nine light installations, making MASS MoCA the only North American institution offering a comprehensive overview of the artist’s career.

C.A.V.U. is open during museum hours with no reservations required. During mid-day, the dome will be sealed and the space will be transformed into a tightly-controlled multisensory environment, with light projected across the cylindrical interior walls and domed ceiling, and sound altered by the contours of the architecture.

During limited days, at dawn and dusk, the oculus in the ceiling of C.A.V.U. will be open, framing the changing colors of the twilight or early morning sky while subtle interior lighting creates the illusion that the heavens are just beyond the viewer’s grasp.

OLLI AT THE CLARK:
ARTISTIC VISIONARIES: FRANK GEHRY AND CHRISTO

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) brings its popular education programming to the Clark with a series of five lectures on two of the dominant figures in twenty-first-century art and architecture, Christo and Frank Gehry. Thomas Krens, chairman and CEO of Global Cultural Asset Management and director emeritus of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, joins Jock Brooks, former deputy director of the Clark, to review the lives and work of these two artistic and architectural innovators who have challenged the world to understand and to appreciate their special, and very personal, visions.

“I can make the sky any color you choose.” — James Turrell
Sigrid Miller Pollin Studio renovated this modest 1950's ranch house and garage to accommodate separate living areas for two sisters and their vacationing grandchildren. The renovated existing two bedroom ranch house accommodates one sister and the renovated and expanded garage area accommodates the second sister. The rear of a long deep garage, once used to house a skiff, became a living space with an open tread stair leading to an added second floor. The second floor contains an art studio, full bathroom and a bedroom. The horizontal ranch is complimented by the vertical addition. New exterior wood siding, roofing, and windows visually tie the new and the old portions together. Both parts share views of the nearby Pettaquamscutt River in southern Rhode Island.

Architect: Sigrid Miller Pollin Studio
Assistant: Sigrid Miller Pollin Studio, Callie Krekorian
Structural Engineer: Ernie George PE
General Contractor: Stokes & Company

PHOTOS: Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA
UMASS BCT SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20TH

WMAIA members will attend remotely; please register for credit here: https://e.sparxo.com/Fall-2021-BCT-Programs

Monday, September 20 | 4:00-5:15 | Zoom 1 HSW
Advancing Healthy, Energy Efficient, Climate-Friendly Housing to Achieve Health and Racial Equity

Monday, October 18 | 4:00-5:15 | Zoom 1 HSW
Climate Smart Forests and Green Construction: Designing with Biogenic Carbon to Achieve Climate Positive Structures

Monday, November 8 | 4:00-5:15 | Zoom 1 LU
The Continuing Rise of Women in Construction

Monday, November 29 | 4:00-5:15 | Zoom 1 HSW
Building Performance Improvement with Building Automation Systems (BAS)

WMAIA – 5 COLLEGE ARCHITECTURE FILM SERIES

This series will be offered on Zoom – credit pending

Tuesday, October 5 | 6:30 PM | Zoom
Koolhaas Houselife

Tuesday, October 19 | 6:30 PM | Zoom
The Pruitt-Igoe Myth

Tuesday, November 2 | 6:30 PM | Zoom
The Infinite Happiness

WMAIA COTE – COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, October 21st | 4:30 PM | Zoom 1 HSW
Why Trees Are Stronger Than Wood – a presentation by Greg Cabral, Original Mass Timber Maine

A note about WMAIA’s enews:
Are you receiving our regular enews? The enews is sent several times a month and is used to communicate information about programs and other opportunities. If you are not receiving this information, please contact director@wmaia.org