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[From CWA's President]

Strength in the Ability to Create

Recently, I was reminded of a pseudo-Latin phrase one of my professors used to say, "Illegitimus non Carborundom" – don't let the bastards grind you down! Whether it's using a new material, using a traditional material in a new way, or simply responding to an innovative idea, resistance can be quite disheartening. Especially with the realization that so much of what we are taught and the technology that we use endorses and encourages homogeny. What has happened to our creativity?



Creativeness stems from our imagination. Imagination leads us to possibility and possibility is where architecture begins. We as architects have a strength in the ability to create. I'm not talking about the physicality of a built response, although that is of course valid, but rather the ability to simply create value. We demonstrate our worth through a commitment to empowering our clients. Free from the confines of internal limitations, the process begins with imagination as we place ourselves in the position of the client or user.

Imagination leads to inventiveness, challenging what we have learned in the production of uniformity, causing us to seek out other resources and question the idea of standardization.

At a time when I sometimes find myself exhausted from having the most ridiculous of arguments that stem from a lack of desire from others to take a little more care in stepping outside of the box, I remain convinced that the resolution lies not in limiting our inventiveness but in cultivating our creativity.

It is with this thought of cultivation that I invite you all to attend this year's Annual CWA Spring Brunch at Saltaus, located at 1350 West Randolph. At a time when most urban lounges are focusing on fanciful thematics, Saltaus takes a sleek minimalist approach with its clean Zen inspired

interiors and exterior Japanese garden. The neutral color palette is set off by a linear bar top made of Venetian marble that, when lit from below, sets off an ethereal glow. Tongue and groove bamboo flooring wraps the main partition wall at the first floor, appearing to float above the white oak hardwoods. Moving up to the second floor Ling Lounge, designed by Karly Yang -one of the owners as well as the interior designer- nature is brought in from the outside. Tree limbs are reflected onto white walls, contrasted with framed views of the City skyline. Boasting "easy urban cuisine with a Mediterranean and Asian flair," this year's event will take place at Saltaus, which comes across as an essential, nature-inspired fine art gallery.

Speaking at this year's engagement is Carol Crandall, of Crandall Ritzu Architects. Carol, a past-president of CWA, will be presenting "The Personal and the Professional." She states: Architecture is a result of human desire. This simple truth is at the core of all of our work. Understanding the source and intensity of a client's desire is our primary indication of the potential of every project. We seek to match this to our desire to engage our hearts and minds through our skill, and to bring forth a built response that completely satisfies the needs and exceeds the expectations that this fundamental desire awakens in our clients.

Prepare yourselves to be inspired by the experience, as she shares her trials, triumphs and the value she has created through the built expression of her work.

Creativity enables us to use our imagination, outside of the constraints of uniformity, in innovative and revolutionary ways.

Challenge the profession.

Release your imagination.

Our strength exists in the ability to create,
Meggan

[Save the Date]

CWA Annual Spring Scholarship Brunch 04.29.07

Photo by Ken Knicker of Bang Logic, Chicago



Sunday, April 29
11 - 2pm
Saltaus
1350 W Randolph St

Guest Speaker:
Carol Crandall, Crandall Ritzu Architects

\$50 CWA
\$65 Non-Members
\$35 Students
All donations benefit the CWA Scholarship Fund

Spring 2007 Lecture Series: Nanako Umemoto 05.19.07

Saturday, May 19 at 2pm
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Theater
220 East Chicago Avenue

Admission is free. There is a \$3.00 service charge for phone and website reservations. Call 312.397.4010.

Image courtesy of Reiser + Umemoto



Nanako Umemoto is a principal at Reiser + Umemoto RUR Architecture, an architectural firm whose work has ranged from furniture to architecture to landscape and infrastructure. According to the firm's website, "the firm approaches each project as the continuation of an ongoing inquiry, delving into relationships among architecture, territory and systems of distribution. By working on projects of varying scales, from the architectural to the regional, the firm has developed flexible strategies and techniques that seek open structures that are now ossified and to integrate domains that historically have been kept apart."

Reiser + Umemoto's work has won many awards, including an AIA Award, a PA Award, and the Daimler/Chrysler Design Award in 1999. They have lectured widely, and exhibited internationally, including the 2000 Venice Biennale, the Pompidou Center in Paris, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Toyota Museum in Japan, among others.

(Adapted and excerpted from www.resier-umemoto.com)

[Calendar of Events]

Confirm dates, times and locations with the sponsoring organization
Be sure to check the CWA website periodically for new events!

January 18 - April 29 2007

Prairie Skyscraper: Frank Lloyd Wright's Price Tower @ Chicago
Architecture Foundation, 224 South Michigan Avenue. 9am-5:30pm
Sponsor: Chicago Architecture Foundation, Free Event

March 2007

- [20] A House for Ecologist Competition @ Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 S. Michigan Ave. 6:00pm Sponsors: Environment and Design Knowledge Community, Young Architects Forum and Chicago Architecture Foundation. \$15 non-members AIA.
- [21] AIA IL Prairie Grassroots - Advocacy Day for Architects in Springfield, IL (Bus transportation will pick up at the Merchandise Mart and in Joliet) Sponsor: AIA IL, Free to AIA Members \$25 for non-members and late registrants.
- [22] Frank Lloyd Wright: Designing an American Way of Living @ The John Buck Company Lecture Hall Gallery, 224 S. Michigan Ave. 6:00pm Sponsor: Chicago Architecture Foundation. \$15 general, \$5 CAF member, \$10 students.

April 2007

- [11] The Architecture 2030 Challenge @ Rubloff Auditorium, The Art Institute of Chicago (enter at Columbus Drive). 6pm. Sponsors: AIA Chicago, AIA Northeast Illinois, Architecture & Design Society of The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Sustainable Programs Roundtable, and Chicago Chapter of U.S. Green Building Council. \$20; \$10 members of sponsoring organizations; \$5 students.
- [12] Making a Difference by Design: The 2007 Spirit Awards @ Zhou B Center, 1029 West 35th Street 6:00-9:00pm Sponsor: Designs for Dignity. \$150 per person. Includes gourmet dinner, raffle prizes and silent auction.
- [16] CWA Board Meeting @ Archeworks: 625 North Kingsbury, 6:15 pm All are welcome!
- [29] CWA Annual Spring Scholarship Brunch @ Saltaus, 1350 W. Randolph St. 11-2pm, \$65 non-members CWA, \$50 CWA members, \$35 Students.

May 2007

- [14] CWA Board Meeting @ Archeworks: 625 North Kingsbury, 6:15 pm All are welcome!
- [19] CWA Spring Lecture Series: Nanako Umemoto @ The Museum of Contemporary Art, Theater, 220 East Chicago Ave. 2pm, Admission is free. There is a \$3.00 service charge for phone and website reservations. Call 312.397.4010

[Massive Change]

Review of Exhibit by Susan J. Van der Meulen

The Museum of Contemporary Art recently hosted the exhibit "Massive Change: The Future of Global Design" (which closed December 31, 2006). The exhibit celebrated the human capacity to change the world through responsible design. Ideas and innovations presented in the exhibition are inspiring local and global change. This traveling show is a project of Bruce

"Now that we can do anything, what will we do?"



The "Massive Change" exhibit, comprised of nine themed rooms, found me bewildered and menaced by large-looming lettering. I obediently followed the sequence of rooms, although unsure whether I started in the right one, and quickly found some things to admire.

In the first room, a double height space featured a six-screen, five minute long slide show projected on a wall one hundred feet in length. Suspended within the room were five three foot diameter bubbles posing in print the following questions:

1. How can cities be sustainable?
2. How can we provide shelter for the entire world?
3. Does density offer hope?
4. Where does the reach of the city end?
5. Is urbanization our unspoken belief system?

On the end wall, in large Helvetica Medium letters proclaimed "We will create urban shelter for the entire world population," and "Urban Economies Affordable housing/factory-built homes for nine billion people by 2050." The slide show compared green design in the City of Chicago versus its sister city, Curitiba, Brazil, posting urbanization as the modern ideology. By 2007, it proclaimed, half the world will live in cities. Several urban designers, architects and the Suzuki Foundation displayed projects.

In the next room, which was painted entirely black, seven slide projectors beamed pictures of rotating and zooming planets, with huge white letters proclaiming "We will build a global mind," "Information Economies," "Air Traffic," "Remote Sensing," "Precipitation." The following white, double cube room displayed a kinetic ten foot tall aluminum sculpture in addition to innovative machines from different eras; a water purification device, radios, stoves, energy sources including a home fueler, and a hydrogen model car. A fourth room exhibited prototypical Segways and six prototypes for a wheelchair that climbs stairs. Dean Kamen's studio and inventors created the six "iBOT" prototypes shown here.

As I moved through the exhibit, my personal favorite was the room featuring "Futuristic Dream Cars." A slogan in two-foot high black letters states, "We will enable Sustainable mobility." Included were a bicycle ambulance for sub-Saharan Africa, a Swiss white enamel and Plexiglas bubble roof car pedal-powered by two passengers with a maximum speed on 53 mph, Sir Clive Sinclair's 1985 Sinclair C5 lead acid battery-powered one-person car, the Eugene Oregon NEVCO (Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Company) Car, an Indian cycle rickshaw from the 1940s, and the Reva Electric Car Compa-

ny's 2001 car which can be charged using a household electric socket.

In a sixth room entitled "Market Economies" and "Image Economies" hanging photos and pillar-mounted square photos delighted financial buffs. In the giant seventh room adorned with a large skylight, every visible surface was plastered with CAT-scan images of brains, teeth, and other various human and inanimate objects. It offered three equally-imprinted benches on which to sit. The eighth room, proclaiming "We will eliminate the need for raw material and banish waste, highlights several product achievements, like laptop computers, compostable upholstery, recyclable chairs, disassemble-ready Ford Model U Cars, drinking water purifiers, the Human Genome project, enviro-ambitious shoes, tetra paks (for beverages) and assorted other products.

Finally, the exhibit lead you into a mazed shaped analysis room which asks viewers to judge: "Should we be doing this?" Viewers answered yes or no by inserting a yellow response card in plastic boxes marked accordingly. As I exited the show, I wondered, is Big Brother watching? I felt distinctly overwhelmed. Nevertheless, I came away impressed by the efforts of Bruce Mau and his team and coveted that Sinclair pedal-car mightily. Way cool!

[Making a Difference by Design]

The 2007 Spirit Awards: Benefiting Designs for Dignity of Heartland Alliance

by Laurie Brady

In an ideal world, funding for social service agencies would be unlimited, providing the necessary means to offer not only services and programs, but also an enriching and healing environment. At Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, there is an entire program dedicated to creating more therapeutic and aesthetically appealing interior spaces to directly address this issue. Designs for Dignity of Heartland Alliance provides pro bono design services to Heartland program sites as well as other area nonprofits in order to create interiors that reflect dignity, hope, and comfort. This nonprofit organization works with an ever-expanding network of designers, manufacturers, and suppliers to provide each program site with the materials and expertise specific to the needs of that project. We believe that good design can help people create lasting, meaningful change in their lives.

Designs for Dignity is known for hosting extraordinary events that increase public awareness around the impact of good design. Continuing this tradition, we proudly announce "Making a Difference by Design: The 2007 Spirit Awards". This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 12 from 6pm to 9pm at the Zhou B Center, 1029 West 35th Street. Spirit awardees are Jean Alan, of Jean Alan, Inc. and the Leo S. Guthman Fund for their commitment and service to supporting philanthropy through design. Tickets are \$150 per person, and the evening features a gourmet dinner, exciting raffle prizes and a fabulous silent auction.

Jean Alan, 2007 honoree, notes, "One of the most meaningful aspects of my work for [Heartland's] Designs for Dignity is the overwhelming responsiveness by all who are asked to contribute. The level of cooperation is extraordinary. And over and over, I see people wanting to contribute, any way they can, to improve the quality of life for those in need." ... "If together we can empower people through inspired and respectful surroundings, we are achieving our goal"

Designs for Dignity is a program of Heartland Alliance that provides pro bono design services to Heartland program sites as well as other area nonprofits in order to create interiors that reflect dignity, hope and comfort. Designs for Dignity works with an ever-expanding network of designers, manufacturers, and suppliers to provide each program site with the materials and expertise specific to the needs of that project.

For more information on Designs for Dignity, or to purchase tickets for Making a Difference by Design: The 2007 Spirit Awards, please call (312) 660-1313 or visit our website at www.heartlandalliance.org/events.

[Member News]



Harley Ellis Devereaux Corporation announces the election of **Susan F. King, AIA, LEED® AP** as one of eight members elected as principals. King holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Cincinnati. She joined the firm in 1997. In her activities for the firm's partner company, GreenWorks studio, her primary focus is sustainable/green design. An additional focus is special needs housing. Notable projects include Wentworth Commons, a "green" affordable housing residence on Chicago's south side as well as Chicago's Bernardin Manor, an affordable senior apartment residence and senior center. King resides in Chicago.

CWA would like to welcome our new members for 2007:

Bridgett Baker Thomas, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Teresa Foucher, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Sarah Herda, Graham Foundation
Pamela Hutter, Hutter Architects, Ltd.
Diane Kontos, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Rosemary McDonnell, City of Chicago OEMC
Michele McMinn, RTKL Associates
Rita Melone, Rugo Raff, Ltd.
Stephanie Whitlock, Graham Foundation

Hutter Architects, Ltd and Graham Foundation joined CWA as a Corporate Members.

We want to hear about your accomplishments - new positions, new jobs, new projects, awards, travels, births and other milestones. Please submit all news to Mindy at mviamentes@muller2.com for inclusion in the next edition of the Muse.

CWA Members Directory

CWA is publishing our annual members directory this month! Directories will be available at the Spring Brunch.

Members - If your contact information has changed, please E-mail Kristen at karmstrong@muller2.com

If you would like to become a CWA member, please download a membership form @ www.cwarch.org

Deadline for updated/new entries is **April 6.**