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## GREEN...Reconsidered.

I have to admit that over the past few months I've grown a little tired of hearing about "green" design. It's everywhere – at conference seminars, on book jackets and magazine covers, in the grocery aisle, on television, in the stock market, and on the road. In fact, in green building products and services alone, the USGBC estimates that the annual U.S. market was more than \$7 billion in 2005 and is now nearing \$12 billion in 2007. It's not that I'm upset that "green" is going mainstream – quite the contrary, it's a trend that needs to become ingrained in our daily lives and our corporate boardrooms, so that ultimately "green design" is simply "good design". My concern today is that "green" is getting diluted. It's an adjective that seems to be increasingly applied more for product differentiation and market appeal, but with little regulation. Nothing mandates how many measures a condo developer must meet in order to market a product as "green", the way the USDA enforces, say, standards for organic or low-fat milk. Is having bamboo flooring, compact fluorescent light bulbs and low-VOC paint enough for a new home to be sold as "eco-friendly"? It's clear that there are many shades of green.

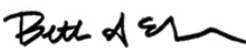
I did not plan to address "green" in this column, but then Greenbuild came to Chicago and I reconsidered. In the US alone, buildings account for 65% of energy consumption, 36% of energy use, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials use, 30% of waste output, and 12% of potable water consumption (source: USGBC). Our industry has come a long way over the past 5 years, to the point where architects, clients, developers and contractors recognize the need to shift our approach to building, but we can always do more to curb our impact on the environment, and now is not the time to back away from the cause.

I recently picked up a book titled Women in Green: Voices of Sustainable Design by Kira Gould and Lance Hosey (published by Ecotone, 2007). Wondering what gender could possibly have to do with sustainability, I opened to a page that cited the following:

- Polls consistently show that women are up to 15% more likely than men to rate the environment a high priority.
- In political elections, women comprise up to two-thirds of voters who cast their ballots around environmental issues.
- Women are more likely than men to volunteer for and give money to environmental causes, especially related to the health and safety within their own communities.
- More women than men support increased government spending for the environment, while more men favor spending cuts.

The authors even contrast the noticeable difference in the percentage of women attending USGBC's Greenbuild versus the AIA's national convention (having been to both I have to agree). Also, they note that the percentage of women involved in the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) is nearly double the percentage of women in the AIA overall. The authors posit a number of theories to explain these statistics, which I won't elaborate on here, but perhaps they are onto something. At a minimum they raise interesting questions about women in the sustainability movement that are worth consideration and further discussion.

So, as we enter a new year, and consider where we want to be in 365 days, or in five years, or in 2030 (have you taken Ed Mazria's challenge?), perhaps we should all reconsider "green". Enjoy the holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you in 2008.



Beth Erickson, CWA President



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

## December 2007

[06] **CWA Holiday Party** @ Prairie Avenue Bookshop: 418 S Wabash. Enjoy the season, support the CWA Scholarship Foundation and start your holiday shopping at Prairie Avenue Bookshop. Guest Speaker: Sarah Herda, Director of the Graham Foundation. Cocktail Reception 6:00pm, Presentation 6:30pm. \$20 Scholarship Donation for Members, \$25 for Non-Members.

[08] "Ross Barney Architects, Process+Projects" book signing @ Prairie Avenue Bookshop: 418 S Wabash. Join Carol Ross Barney as she signs copies of the new monograph, 2-4pm.

[18] **CWA Monthly Meeting** @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue, Join us for cocktails and networking 6:00-6:30pm, Meeting 6:30- 7:30pm. All members are welcome! RSVP

## January 2008

[15] **CWA Monthly Meeting** @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue, Join us for cocktails and networking 6:00-6:30pm, Meeting 6:30-7:30pm. All members are welcome! RSVP

[24] **CWA Happy Hour.** Details to be announced.

## February 2008

[6] **CWA Spring Lecture Series: Sulan Kolatan** [Kolatan/MacDonald Studio, New York City] @ Art Institute of Chicago, 6pm. Sponsors: CWA with the Architecture and Design Society.

[19] **CWA Monthly Meeting** @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue, Join us for cocktails and networking 6:00-6:30pm, Meeting 6:30-7:30pm. All members are welcome! RSVP

## March 2008

[18] **CWA Monthly Meeting** @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue, Join us for cocktails and networking 6:00-6:30pm, Meeting 6:30-7:30pm. All members are welcome! RSVP

**CWA Bi-Annual Retreat.** Details to be announced.

## April 2008

[15] **CWA Monthly Meeting** @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue, Join us for cocktails and networking 6:00-6:30pm, Meeting 6:30-7:30pm. All members are welcome! RSVP

**Spring Scholarship Brunch.** Join us for Sunday brunch as we award a \$2000 student scholarship. Guest Speaker and April date to be announced.

## May 2008

[13] **CWA Spring Lecture Series: Lise Anne Couture** [Asymptote, New York City] @ The Museum of Contemporary Art.

[20] **CWA Monthly Meeting** @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue, Join us for cocktails and networking 6:00-6:30pm, Meeting 6:30-7:30pm. All members are welcome! RSVP

RSVP to all events by emailing [RSVP@cwarch.org](mailto:RSVP@cwarch.org)

## Chicago Women in Architecture

P.O. BOX 2567

Chicago. Illinois 60690-2567

## [Inside this issue]

From CWA's President  
Calendar of Events  
Firm Philosophies:  
Harley Ellis Devereaux  
Muller+Muller  
URBANWorks  
Member News



## [Firm Perspectives]

### Finding Deeper Meaning in Architecture

Guest Editor: Deirdre Colgan

### Harley Ellis Devereaux:

#### Current Work – Greening a Non-profit Organization

Susan Campbell, Susan King, Charlene D. Andreas

Harley Ellis Devereaux’ Life Enhancement Studio has been working with Interfaith Housing Development Corporation of Chicago, in partnership with Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, to design and construct Sankofa House. The project consists of a newly constructed, five-story, 58-unit, residential facility with supportive services on city owned land in North Lawndale.

The residential community will blend shelter and supportive services. Starter apartments for young adults aging out of foster care will be available and the building will also include larger, multiple-unit living spaces for “kinship” families comprised of grandparents or aunts and uncles raising family members such as grandchildren, nieces, or nephews.

The philosophies of Harley Ellis Devereaux and IHDC reinforced each other in the development of this project. Harley Ellis Devereaux is committed to sustainability with a goal to reduce the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources, and waste production in its projects. For IHDC, it was important to create light-filled living spaces and provide high indoor air quality. Together, these philosophies helped guide in the creation of a place to call home that not only provides dignity and comfort to its residents, but also a place to thrive and strive for a better future.

The project team of Susan King, project manager, and Charlene Andreas, project architect, worked with IHDC to develop an integrated building that provides plenty of light and air for its residents along with a number of sustainable features. The project incorporates a high-performance exterior construction with advanced air sealing details, a bioswale to collect storm-water, two green roof gardens, water efficient plumbing fixtures, high efficiency mechanical equipment, Energy-Star appliances, an eco-friendly elevator, a recycling trash chute, and low VOC-emitting materials. In addition, the building is designed to be “solar-ready” and currently IHDC is pursuing funding to provide urban wind turbines on the roof as renewable energy sources.

The project received a permit under the city’s expedited Green Permit Process and received two green stars under the Department of Housing’s Green Residential Program. Sankofa House is slated for completion early next summer.



### Muller + Muller:

#### The Growth of a WBE Firm

Cindy Muller

The early days of the firm were filled with growing pains. I was always threatening to get “a real job, downtown”. Years later, I am very content with the choices I made.

While completing my professional degree from UIC, I was employed at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation. After graduating I joined Metz, Train & Youngren, I have always viewed Jack Train as a mentor and his following comment made a strong impression on me, *“You have to decide if you are going to be the architect of the client’s work place or the client’s home, because they are two different types of architects”*. Muller+Muller began with my husband Jay and myself, in 1984, the year our daughter, Cate was born. We began by working on residential architecture, development, and construction management. The division of tasks fell naturally for us: I stressed over finances and Jay over construction details. Design never seemed complicated, as it was almost always a 25 x 125 foot Chicago property. Remembering Jack’s comments, I wanted to be the architect for the client’s work place. I wanted to work in the corporate world. With the emergence of the MBE/WBE programs, this seemed to be a logical step, towards transitioning from residential work to public/corporate work.

We split the construction management/development of residential projects from the architecture, incorporating each entity individually. As Jay took ownership of the former, I became sole owner of the architecture firm, as a 100% owner we became a WBE firm. This status gave us exposure to City and State Agencies. We received our first two public projects, a school renovation and interior alterations to the Petrillo Band Shell in Grant Park. I have always believed that getting a “foot in the door” is only half the battle. This is a service business, and it is important to keep the client happy which we did. As a result we received multiple new public projects.

My personal life and career goals were at odds. I wanted to have a more corporate presence, yet I have always placed a very high value on family life. As our firm was growing, so was our first daughter. It was after the illness and early passing of our second daughter, Alison, that I realized the freedom in having ones own firm. It allowed me to have a perfect balance of family and work.

We made a conscious decision not to increase our firm size to more than fifteen people, a size which seemed manageable. We could still handle large-scale projects, while retaining talent when things slowed down. Even though I’ve considered business school, I am convinced that an architecture firm should be managed by an architect. I try to manage fairly and quietly, while allowing my staff to excel and believe in blending work and play when possible.

Now that our daughter is grown we have more time for the firm. I would like to keep the focus on our public sector; we have developed a market for transportation architecture. We are striving to develop a better balance of public and private clients, and have currently come full circle, by beginning to design a home for ourselves in Northern Michigan. It is more challenging than the familiar 25 x 125 foot Chicago lot.



### URBANWorks:

#### Architecture as Social Change Agent

Meggan Lux

Architecture might not be the first thought that comes to mind in the plight against racism and poverty. But architecture can psychologically influence how we learn, work, play, think and even act. Good architecture, and design, impacts us and does not have to be expensive – It’s something that everyone should have and experience.

Recently, during a renovation of a homeless shelter in an affluent neighborhood, I was particularly moved by the determination and perseverance by our client to see a vision through to its built reality. The caseworkers, users and board of directors had been involved in a neighborhood battle (instigated by a small few) resulting in several zoning hearings and a series of legal proceedings that resulted in delaying the project for nearly two years. The shelter had been present in the community for several years and through the support of the greater community at large, won out and remained in its current location, free to move forward with the renovation of their space. Overall, there was a great collaboration between neighbors, businesses, schools, and churches and I was left impacted by the tremendous accomplishments that are possible when we all make a conscious choice to “belong.”

This community had a collective vision for their future that consisted of empowerment, self-sufficiency, independence, confidence, partnership and transformation.

Our design intent evolved from this last word - Transformation, where we could provide a physical environment that would lend itself to this idea; enhancing the opportunities that were already created through the work and services provided to guests they had been serving for the last 21 years. Our goal was to create a sense of belonging and trust, both on the part of the guests partaking in the services offered as well as local residents & neighbors and their expectations of not altering the context of the neighborhood, but in fact improving it.

We wanted the architecture to play an important role in sustaining the dignity of the guests and in reassuring them that this experience would be different than other experiences they might have had in other shelters around the City. As they say, *“You have only one chance to make a first impression,”* and we wanted that impression to be friendly, secure and empowering.

We provided a variety of spaces that enabled guests to have a choice where they could self-determine which area might enable them to be the most productive & feel the most at-home during their stay.

Carefully designed spaces can impact and improve lives. Our client remained steadfast in this belief - these are the clients who continue to dream and remain undefeated in the face of every opposition. These are the users that inspire and influence; that provide us with a renewed sense of commitment to building a better world.

For some it may be a professional responsibility but for all of us, ‘to belong’ is a social responsibility. Each of us is entitled to well-designed spaces that at a minimum provide shelter. These spaces are not something deserved but simply a fundamental human right.

Here’s to the next generation of CWA members: that they continue to critically analyze and remain independent thinkers, to be the voice, to actively participate, to represent their diverse communities, and to believe that each of us can make a difference.



*URBANWorks, Ltd. is a minority women-owned architecture and planning firm. Our individual professional affiliations and civic involvement serve to keep us current in technological advances and attuned to those social trends and issues that impact the built environment as well as the quality of life of the users.*

## [Member News]

CWA would like to welcome our new members for 2007-2008:

**Nicol M. Chervenak**, OWPP

**Deirdre Colgan**

**Megan Danner**, FitzGerald Associates Architects

**Lori Day**, Brininstool & Lynch

**Jacqueline Diesing**, Lucien Lagrange Architects

**Alanna Dillman**

**Lisa Elkins**, 2 Point Perspective Inc.

**Katherine Giles**, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

**Francine Hoerman**, OWPP

**Susan Johnson**, Muller+Muller, Ltd.

**Tina M.H. Kress**, Weese Langley Weese

**Michelle Mathia**, Teng

**Grace K. Rappe**, Douglas Hoerr Landscape Arc

**Lori Schroeder**, zpda Architecture

**Carly Stanger**, Muller & Muller

**Patsy Welch**

**Rebecca Williamson**, MRSA Architects & Planners

**Lucien Lagrange Architects** and **Proteus Group, LLC** joined CWA as Corporate Members.

In October, Ryerson Woods hosted a sustainable furniture show featuring the furniture of **2 Point Perspective** alongside two other furniture designers – all of whom focus on creating environmentally friendly furniture. The exhibition was curated by David Dilworth of Design Within Reach. As a fairly recent arrival in Chicago, and as a very new CWA member, **Lisa Richardson Elkins** founded 2 Point Perspective along with her husband Ron Elkins in an effort to focus their attention on their two primary passions: modern design and sustainability. The couple is also featured in the November 2007 issue of Chicago Home + Garden. Examples of the company’s furniture and architectural projects can be seen on their website at [www.2pointperspective.net](http://www.2pointperspective.net).

*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](mailto:mviamentes@muller2.com) for inclusion in the next edition of the Muse.*