



**Kristine K. Fallon, FAIA,**  
**Owner of Kristine K. Fallon Associates, Inc.**  
 by Gail M. Cavanagh

“.....and most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition, they somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.” Steve Jobs

Kristine Fallon's career began at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill when the firm was establishing their reputation for building feats of spectacular architecture. Pioneering uses of computers for both analysis and visualization gave SOM an enormous design and marketing edge in the 1970's and 80's. Not only did SOM influence the path of every other architectural firm that would follow, but SOM was also instrumental in allowing Ms. Fallon to develop her interest in architecture and computers.

Ms. Fallon was first assigned to the Jeddah International Airport project. Shortly after starting work, Ms. Fallon became acquainted with the woman who was running the civil engineering computer applications for this project. After expressing an interest in computers, Ms. Fallon was invited to join the small group of computer specialists for the project. One of her assignments was performing earthwork calculations for the Hajj Terminal, which just won the AIA Twenty-Five Year Award.

SOM's computer group had two sides. One was accounting. The other was very experimental as the firm looked for techniques to represent and analyze their sophisticated designs. This group was staffed exclusively with architects and engineers. Fazlur Kahn, the legendary SOM structural engineer famous for the structural designs of Willis Tower, the John Hancock Center and the Hajj Terminal, was the partner in charge of the Computer Group.

After three years of working in design studios on large projects in Saudi Arabia, Ms. Fallon requested a six-month sabbatical and took a job with a small community organization doing residential rehab. She began working with contractors and got experience with actual fieldwork. Her leave of absence allowed her this flexibility to broaden her experience. After the six months, Ms. Fallon was invited back to join SOM's Computer Group.

The SOM design studios were becoming interested in working with the software the Computer Group had developed and that created a role for someone to provide computer training and support. The software programs that architects work with today weren't around yet. The PC hadn't been invented. Help desks were not invented. Because she had worked with both groups in the past, Ms. Fallon excelled in the role of bringing the technology to the studios and conversely, bringing the needs of the studios to the programmers, as well. She trained hundreds of architects and engineers at SOM to use computers.

At SOM, Ms. Fallon also realized that she was interested in using computer techniques to help very large teams coordinate their work. She began managing requests for

custom programming and managing the computer production. She provided training as other SOM offices began using the software. She authored user manuals and training curricula.

After her final three years at SOM, Ms. Fallon was hired by Epstein to create a computer capability for the firm. Epstein had no computers and wanted someone to bring them into the computer age. Ms. Fallon was to invent how Epstein's designers and construction managers would use computer-aided design techniques for their broad range of practice. She helped the firm build its computer capability into a competitive advantage. She also got involved in design/build projects and was involved with the Harold Washington Library Center and the second McCormick Place expansion.

At Epstein, Ms. Fallon had profit and loss responsibility for a computer-consulting subsidiary and learned about running a business. Following her nine-year stint at Epstein, Ms. Fallon founded Kristine Fallon Associates, Inc. (KFA) in 1993. Sears Store Planning was the firm's first client. KFA worked with IBM to develop a document management system for CAD and image files that served collaborative design within the Store Planning group and as a digital archive for as-built drawings.

Kristine Fallon Associates became early experts in web-based collaboration systems and implemented these processes for CTA and the Illinois Tollway. KFA has trained over 4,000 design and construction professionals in the Chicago area to use this technology for their owner clients. New projects for KFA include a contract with General Services Administration, where KFA will provide BIM services for GSA in four Regions.



Photography © source unknown

AIA has given the Hajj Terminal at the Jeddah Airport in Saudi Arabia the 25-Year Award, the first project Ms. Fallon ever worked on using computer driven technology.

Since Ms. Fallon has been on the forefront of computer technology for architecture her whole career what does she see for the future? The ubiquity of data access is having a huge impact across the board. For example, with web-based collaboration systems, any architect, contractor or owner can access all records for their projects online. Organizational changes will be profound. She states, "Computers can really change the way things are done. There has always been huge potential, but the detour into 2D CAD just replicated the drafting process and didn't go anywhere. The BIM approach really starts to change everything, who does what and when they do it and how. AIA is coming out with new contracts to address the new processes. KFA is very strong in organizational consulting. How are firms going to use this new technology to do this particular task? How do you get everyone to do it the right way? This has been KFA's mission."

6:15-7:15pm. Featuring a discussion on "Building the Business Case" led by Dorothy McCarty. Join us for cocktails and networking. All members are welcome! RSVP.

[21-25] Annual Meeting of Society of Architectural Historians in Chicago - most events held at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza

[24] Gala for the Society of Architectural Historians: "Chicago's Cutting Edge Seventies" special honorees include founding members of CWA

[25] Spring Brunch - location and speaker TBD.

**May 2010**

[13] CWA Monthly Meeting @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue. 5:45-6:15pm, Meeting 6:15-7:15pm. Election for 2010-2011 CWA Board. Join us for cocktails and networking. All members are welcome! RSVP.

[Professional Achievements]

Kathryn H. Anthony, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2009-2010 ACSA distinguished Professor Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). Dr. Anthony is a longtime member of Chicago Women in Architecture; many of her former students have been active in CWA.

The Distinguished Professor Award honors an outstanding individual who has sustained creative achievement in the advancement of architectural education through teaching, design, scholarship, research, or service. Professor Anthony is the longest serving female professor at the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she has taught since 1984. Her career spans over 30 years of teaching at the University of Illinois; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; and the University of California, Berkeley, her alma mater.

Throughout her academic career, Professor Anthony has served to challenge and change architectural education and practice, inspiring faculty to create more humane learning environments, architects to create more humane working environments, and students to empower themselves. Her teaching, research, writing, service and media appearances have educated hundreds of students, faculty, practitioners, and the public about the critical importance of designing spaces for people and designing for diversity. She has authored over 100 publications including two award-winning books, \*Design Juries on Trial: The Renaissance of the Design Studio\*, and \*Designing for Diversity: Gender, Race and Ethnicity in the Architectural Profession\* and has been interviewed in The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, Time.com, and National Public Radio.

The ACSA, founded in 1912, is a nonprofit membership association to advance the quality of architectural education. It includes over 250 schools with architecture programs in the US and Canada, representing over 5,000 architecture faculty, providing a forum for ideas on the leading edge of architectural thought that affect the architectural profession in the future. A medallion and certificate will be presented to Dr. Anthony at an Architectural Education Awards Ceremony during the 98th ACSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA in March 2010. Professor Anthony may use the title "ACSA Distinguished Professor" in perpetuity.

[Newsletter Poll Results]

by Kim Haig

The results are in! We polled the membership to learn more about the value of the newsletter and determine if we need to tweak the format to improve on the number of people who read it. We got 29 responses, around 30% of our membership. Most of the respondents do read the newsletter and found it to be an effective way to keep in touch with CWA activities. They also felt it was relevant and well written, but preferred more articles on contemporary women architects and examples of work from CWA members. The members who responded provided lots of good ideas for future editions, including unemployment strategies, sustainable design, computer literacy, continuing education, professional strategies and alumni information. The electronic format was more popular than a mailed hard copy, and we are working to make the e-newsletter even more convenient by embedding the copy in the email rather than requiring readers to download a pdf. The newsletter is designed to serve the CWA members and the Editors are always looking for good ideas, so feel free to send along any thoughts you may have on possible articles or ways to improve the newsletter. Feedback is an element of good communications.

References and Credits

<sup>1</sup> Photo Source unknown. For additional imagery of the Hajj Terminal, please go to <http://www.aia.org/practicing/awards/aia082164>

Sponsors

**bulthaup**

Laurie Brady, Showroom Manager  
 165 West Chicago Avenue, Suite 200  
 Chicago, IL 60610  
 [T] 312 787 9982

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Jennifer Slutzky, Account Manager  
 200 North Michigan Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60601  
 [T] 312 235 5576

[Uncoming Special Events]



RSVP to both events at [www.cwarch.org](http://www.cwarch.org)  
 Advance payment required by PayPal



Green Building Tour: Lincoln Park Whole Foods  
 Whole Foods: Lincoln Park @ 1550 North Kingsbury.  
 March 18, 2010  
 6:00pm Networking, 6:30pm Presentation & Tour.  
 \$10 RSVP through Paypal, Event limited to 40 people.

Green Building Tour: Zero Net Energy House  
 4895 North Ravenswood Avenue.  
 April 1, 2010  
 7:00pm Tour.  
 \$10 RSVP through Paypal, Event limited to 30 people.

**Tour of Lincoln Park Whole Foods**  
 1550 N Kingsbury  
 March 18  
 6pm Networking  
 6:30pm Presentation  
 \$10 (includes wine & snacks)  
 RSVP early, tour limited to 40, advance payment required

chicago women in architecture  
**GREEN TOUR SERIES**

**Tour of Zero Net Energy House**  
 4895 N Ravenswood Ave  
 April 1  
 7pm Tour  
 \$10  
 RSVP early, tour limited to 30, advance payment required

Please be aware that this is a tour of a private residence. Guests are requested to be respectful of the home and remove shoes at the door. Be aware that the owner has cats.



by Kim Haig

Interested in marketing your eco-talents? CWA has reserved a booth in the upcoming Green Festival being held at Navy Pier on May 22-23. Participating in the CWA booth is a good way to contain costs, with an opportunity for maximum exposure. Members who wish to consult with festival-goers can reserve one or more time slots at the booth. The CWA booth will be located in a prominent spot near the Green Building Pavilion, and there are still two or three time slots available at this time. The festival promises to feature a number of interesting speakers and product booths which can be found at their website, <http://www.greenfestivals.org/chicago/>. One of our own members, Lisa Elkins from Two-Point Perspective will be speaking on "Your sustainable dwelling: smart green ideas + personalized professional feedback". You can also hear Michelle Kaufmann, designer of the SMART HOME currently installed at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. The Sierra Club calls the SMART HOME the "Henry Ford of green homes". If you're interested in reserving a time slot, please contact Gail Cavanagh at [gailc52ma@yahoo.com](mailto:gailc52ma@yahoo.com) for available openings and cost information.

May 22-23, 2010  
 Saturday: 10am – 7pm  
 Sunday: 11am – 6pm  
 Navy Pier  
 600 E Grand Avenue

**2009-2010 Executive Board**

Mindy Viamontes, President  
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[Calendar of Events]

Confirm dates, times, and locations with the sponsoring organization.  
 RSVP to all events by emailing [RSVP@cwarch.org](mailto:RSVP@cwarch.org)

**March 2010**

[09] CWA Monthly Meeting @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue. 5:45-6:15pm, Meeting 6:15-7:15pm. Scholarship submission judging in place of usual monthly meeting agenda.

[18] Green Building Tour Series, Whole Foods: Lincoln Park @ Whole Foods: 1550 North Kingsbury. 6:00pm Networking, 6:30pm Presentation & Tour. \$10 RSVP through Paypal, limited to 40 people.

**April 2010**

[01] Green Building Tour Series: Zero Net Energy House @ 4895 North Ravenswood Avenue. 7:00pm Tour. \$10 RSVP through Paypal, limited to 30 people.

[13] CWA Monthly Meeting @ bulthaup: 165 West Chicago Avenue. 5:45-6:15pm, Meeting