Kristine Fallon, FAIA, Owner of Kristine K. Fallon Associates, Inc.

"...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 where she was helping establish 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 1970s and 80s. Not only did SOM influence the paths 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 introduction of computer-aided design and drafting systems. Her group was staffed exclusively with architects and engineers. Fatir Kohy, the legendary SOM structural engineer famous for the structural designs of Willis Tower, the John Hancock Center and the Haj 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 position in substantial and took a job with a small community organization designing residential buildings. She began working with contractors and got experience with actual fieldwork. 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 together yet. The PC hadn't been invented. Help desks were not invented. Because SOM's computer group had two sides. One was accounting. The other was very civil engineering computer applications for this project. After expressing an interest in starting work, Ms. Fallon became acquainted with the woman who was running 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 the technology, 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 the technology. New projects for KFA include a contract with General Services Administration, where KFA will provide BIM services for GSA in four Regions.

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 delve into 2D CAD just replicates the drafting process and doesn’t go anymore. The BIM approach really starts to change everything, whatever does and what they do it and how. AIA is coming out with new contracts to address the new processes. KFA is very strong in organizational changes. How are firms going to use this new technology for the future? How do you get everyone to do it the right way? This has been KFA’s mission.”

Kathryn H. Anthony, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2009-2010 ACDI/Astoria Professor Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). Dr. Anthony is a long-standing female professor at the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she has taught since 1984. Her career spanned 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, to create more humane learning environments, to create more humane learning environments, and students to create more humane working environments, and students to design and construct for the people who live, work and play in those spaces. Her teaching, 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 70 publications including two award-winning books, “Design Juries on Trial,” the Renaissance of the Design Studio,” and “Designing for Diversity: Gender, Race and Disability 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 1952, 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 196th ACSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA in March 2010. Professor Anthony may use the title "ACSA Distingished Professor" in perpetuity.

[Professional Achievements]

[Upcoming Special Events]

Green Building Tour: Camp Nanticoke Winfield Woods Whole Foods: Lincoln Park @ 5550 North Kipling Avenue March 30, 2010 9:00am Networking, 9:30am Presentation & Tour $10 RSVP through Paypal, Event limited to 40 people.

Green Building Tour: Zero Net Energy House 4895 North Ravenswood Avenue April 5, 2010 7:00pm Tour $10 RSVP through Paypal, Event limited to 30 people.

[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 effective at keeping 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 articles on contemporary women architects and examples of work from CWA members. As a result, you will see more coverage of their work from our members in future editions. We are happy to feature more content written by our members and the feedback was always good for 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.

Interested in marketing your eco-talents? CBA has reserved a booth in the upcoming Green Festival being held at Navy Pier on May 22-23. Participating in the CBA 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 slots at the time. The CBA booth will be located in a prominent spot near the Green Building Park, and there are still some free or low-cost 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 Cavanaugh at gakaufmann@yahoo.com for available openings and cost information.

May 22-23, 2010 Saturday: 10am – 5pm Sunday: 11am – 6pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Avenue

[References and Credits]