



MAPP

Alumni Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

MAPP Alumni Newsletter is produced by the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. To comment or request a copy of the print edition, please write to us (mappalum@umd.edu). The *MAPP Alumni Newsletter* is also available on our website at www.arch.umd.edu. The *MAPP Alumni Newsletter* is published annually.

The *MAPP Alumni Newsletter* is a showcase of the achievements and activities in the school and serves to enhance the ongoing dialogue with alumni and friends. If you are aware of fellow alumni or friends who did not receive the *MAPP Alumni Newsletter*, please send their name and address to mappalum@umd.edu. We appreciate your comments on this publication and encourage you to contact us at:

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Dean's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am honored to address you as the new Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation! You will probably not be surprised to hear that the last few months in the life of MAPP have been very exciting and energizing.

Success, imagination and the pursuit of sustainability are part of our school's DNA. They are the constants that run through all our ever-changing pedagogical, scholarly and creative endeavors. A short letter cannot do service to all our varied and complex recent accomplishments in the study and creative transformation of the built environment, so let me mention just a few.

Our school continues to grow and the opportunities we offer to our students continue to diversify. The number of undergraduate students in architecture is now 300-strong. In addition to our signature BS in Architecture,

we now offer a complementary BA in Architecture. Our undergraduate students have the option of participating in two minors, Construction Project Management (in collaboration with the A. James Clark School of Engineering) and Real Estate Development. Enrollment in both minors now exceeds what we had projected just a few months ago. Our graduate programs, too, continue to thrive. In addition to our five individual programs (Architecture, Community Planning, Historic Preservation, Real Estate Development and Ph.D.), we offer nine dual degrees. Some of our best students choose to pursue these joint degrees, which allow them to deepen and broaden their interdisciplinary knowledge of the built-environment professions while they develop new and creative problem-solving skills. The most popular of these programs is Architecture + Real Estate Development; the two newest ones are Business Administration + Real Estate Development and Applied Anthropology + Historic Preservation.

I am proud to share that, for the first time this year our architecture students have the opportunity to study in Florence as part of a program we developed with the International Studies Institute. We continue our global classroom efforts that include partnering with higher-education institutions in Baghdad, Iraq, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Our students and faculty continue to do award-winning work. Once again, under the leadership of Professors Matt Bell and Margaret McFarland, a MAPP student team was chosen as one of the four finalists for the Urban Land Institute Hines Competition. We have now been finalists five times in eight years and won twice! Our faculty are racking up awards and honors too. Most recently, the Director of Historic Preservation, Donald Linebaugh, was appointed to the Governor's Consulting Committee on the National Register of Historic Places and the Director of our Partnership in Action Learning for Sustainability (PALS) program, Uri Avin,

just received the 2017 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award for Leadership & Service. The list goes on.

So let me just conclude by affirming our unwavering commitment to MAPP's core values, which include excellence in design and teaching, diversity and sustainability. I invite you to participate in the grand celebration of those core values and accomplishments during the next academic year, when we mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the school. Building on our inspiring history, we plan to chart a compelling vision for a sustainable future.

Sonia Hirt

Professor and Dean
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Alumni Conversations

Carl Elefante: Where do we go from here?

AIA's Carl Elefante reflects on the future of education, the profession and our built environment. The weekend following the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election—thought to be one of the most polarizing in the country's history—Carl Elefante, FAIA (B.ARCH '80) met with colleagues at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to begin chipping away at a singular question: "Where do we go from here?" While politics and architecture seem worlds away to some, the sea change reverberating out of Washington shortly after the election has the power to alter nearly a decade of policy—environmental, economic, social—tearing at the seams of the country's urban fabric and clashing with the fundamental mission of the AIA.

As 2017 First Vice President/2018 President-Elect of the AIA, Carl is poised and ready to lead the profession forward. When he joined the AIA national board in 2012, Carl, who is principal and director of sustainability at Quinn Evans, knew by the end of his first meeting that they had work to do, both as an organization and as an industry. Over the past decade, he has emerged as a leader and champion among peers in design, historic preservation and environmental policy. He was at the forefront of the LEED movement. These days, it's the pursuit of zero net carbon that's in his line of sight. "We [the board] were talking about sustainability and zero-net carbon and looking around the room saying, 'who's going to take care of this? Who is going to keep it going?' I knew it was me. I could pursue this with more energy than anyone else in this room."

In a conversation with architecture program director, Brian Kelly, Carl talks about a design revolution, the push and pull of global politics and why he holds hope for the future.

You have built a reputation on the principles of sustainable design, involved in the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the institution of the LEED system. I met [founder] Mike Italiano before the USGBC was organized; we served together on the same committee of the President's Council on Sustainable Development during former President Clinton's first administration. At that point, he and [co-founder] David Gottfried were trying to figure out if there was a way to implement a green code. Within a couple of years, they realized that few wanted one, because at the time, the environment wasn't on everybody's mind. They realized that you can't

just force it; you have to create a market. They stepped up and drove that campaign forward in a significant way, by getting everyone in the building sector interested in green building. The local chapter of the USGBC, of which I was on the founding board, was established about five years after the topic was first broached. While AIA's Committee on the Environment was a major partner in the establishment of USGBC, and certainly a major force in promulgating and legitimizing LEED, the USGBC was able to do something that AIA, frankly, couldn't do, which was to reach out beyond the architecture profession.

LEED is a mainstream term now; it's almost become a layman's term. Does that surprise you? Why do you think that happened? There were both intended and unintended reasons. The intended reason was [USGBC CEO] Rick Fedrizzi addressing the situation, saying, "we need to transform the marketplace, not just do green buildings." The unintended side is where we were culturally — green became cool and interesting. The USGBC, a stunning example of a purpose-driven organization, was there to ride that wave.

On a separate note, USGBC's organizational model is a real lesson for AIA. Are we a mission-driven organization or are we a member services organization? The answer is both. Yet, from a legal standpoint, as a nonprofit organization, we are mission-driven. The member services piece is an important part of delivering that mission, but the mission is what matters in the end.

You coined the phrase, "the greenest the building is one that is already built." Do you remember when you said it? I was speaking at a conference for historic tax credits in Chicago. This was one of the driest conferences I had ever been to and my spot was right after lunch. I thought, "this is it, everyone is going to nap through my presentation no matter what I say. I have to do something to wake these people up." I had been part of the historic preservation mafia for a while, so I said to the group, "Why are we here? We're here because the greenest building is one that's already built. What is the greenest building? The one that's already built!" and started a chant in the room. It was hilarious and everyone laughed and woke up and managed to stay awake for at least three to four minutes after that.

The bigger takeaway was the need for that little tag line that everyone can remember. And, in the historic preservation world, we need it for two reasons. One, is for empowerment —historic preservation matters because it is an act of conservation. The other, is that preservation-



Carl Elefante, FAIA, 2017 First Vice President/2018 President-elect of the American Institute of Architects.

ists understand things about conservation that have broader value. Many buildings don't have historic significance; but they still occupy a space on the street, still hold energy and contribute to the neighborhood. Preservationists understand that in a way that architects often don't.

In many cities across the nation, there are delicate wars being fought on multiple fronts between preserving architectural history and culture, and the economics of development. There's this push and pull between developing the area in the name of function or demand and preserving what makes our environments unique. How do we bridge that gap? There's no magic answer. The regulatory infrastructure that exists for preservation these days is pretty good, but, everyone needs to be more mindful of what the factors are. For example, carbon footprint. It would be terrific to have things like carbon impact become part of the discussion at a historic preservation review board. Let's say you have the worst pile of excess ever built, and it has an enormous carbon footprint. Do we preserve every monument to excess? No, that's not the purpose.

The standard that matters the most is the human connection to culture. When people get on an airplane to go on vacation, where do they go? They go to cities with layers of time. You get a sense of being part of "the great chain of being" when you go to Rome. The connection that one has with human culture is what enriches us as people. Today, we are better at stripping the world of that than building those layers of time. We look at our past as a thing that is in our way. I think that's a real failure of our education system and our sensibilities.

Who are the advocates for this? People in the preservation world. Similar to how green building became part of the discussion, how do we get cultural richness into the conversation? We need to make it more relatable and on a greater scale. In many ways, there is a cultural appreciation for "eclectic-ness", for selecting the best—whether it be a watch or a car— from any time. But it's not really part of our conversation on the built environment.

Architecture students today face a much different landscape, with the demands of new technology and changing environments, than they did 25 years ago. How do schools today better prepare students for the workplace? And what are the things education is doing well? I think Boyer and Mitgang's book [Building Community: A New Future for Architecture Education and Practice] is as relevant today as it was in 1996. It gives you an idea of how profound their thinking was, but also demonstrates how the profession and the academy moved a lot in certain ways, and not much at all in others. I can sum up my thoughts best by relating an experience I had once at another university. About twenty architects from area firms were asked to talk about what they needed most from prospective job candidates. I was the only one who didn't say, "we really need students who know AutoCAD." It was astonishing. One thing we don't need are architecture school graduates who know AutoCAD—that takes a week to learn. What we need are clear, critical thinkers, people who know how to communicate and people who know how to collaborate. Schools need to stop "silo-ing" students. Stop putting them in front of a room to defend their design until there's blood on the floor. We need people that know how to sit around a table with other people with different opinions, respect those opinions, and find solutions that work for everyone.

In the last couple of years, the five collaterals (ACSA, AIA, NAAB, NCARB and AIAS) have

questioned what each organization's share is in the education, continuing education and credentialing of architects. The goal is to have an effective profession. What do people need to learn when, and who is the best to deliver that education?

For example, training for and taking the Architecture Registration Exam (ARE): shouldn't that be something that NCARB focuses on? What about broader education about the profession? That's something AIA should be spearheading, because we are the association for practicing architects.

Does it really make sense to have anything but the most basic questions on the ARE about negotiating contracts? Let's be realistic: the people taking the exam are usually focused on succeeding in their first job. At what point do they need to understand contracts? Shouldn't education like that be available to you during your career? The AIA board has been talking about credentialing, with the idea that curated education be available when you reach those career milestones. This approach has real merit, but we need to engage the academic community.

Let's talk about faculty in practice. The University of Maryland benefits from a large number of practitioner-faculty members in the architecture program. At the end of the day, it's an incredibly rich experience that is beneficial to students and to the school. But, within the university, this is an outlier scenario where a culture of Ph.D.s, funded research and dissemination of scholarly work dominates. In higher education, we are looking at a future (some might say that future is now) where there will likely be fewer and fewer practitioners in the ranks of the tenured faculty and, in turn, schools that have fewer practicing faculty will become less connected to practice. At the same time, it is often difficult to get firms to partner with us by sharing their talent in the studio or in the classroom. How do we figure out a way to attract and keep practitioners in the academy? I have certainly heard this from the other side of the table; that there needs to be more registered architects on the faculty of architectural schools and that the tie to practice is not strong enough. My completely informal survey is that MAPP has a very strong practice presence on the faculty with some truly, talented leaders in the field, who are very generous with their time. It would be interesting to understand the motivations that support practitioner faculty. Also, how architecture schools are judged by their institutions is a factor. Professional accomplishment in our field is usually measured in building, not publishing. How are architectural faculty valued and advanced? We need them to be judged differently than most academic departments.

The UMD undergraduate population for architecture is 60% female, which is amazing compared to 30 years ago. We are more diverse, but are still trailing in terms of academic enrollment in our profession, particularly with African Americans. If the schools are the pipeline to the profession, we need to do a better job so that you can do a better job. What's your advice? This is a big conversation right now at the AIA. In 2016, we appointed a committee called the Commission on Equity in Architecture. It was charged with looking at this issue for a year and sharing its findings. Those findings and recommendations, released in December, revealed a few things that are enormously useful.

One is the "diversity iceberg"—we see only what is above the water. When we think about diversity, we have to be much more holistic. The Commission mapped the career arc of an ar-



Career Day in the Great Space

chitect—from grade school through the profession—and identified diversity issues with each one of those different time stages. With gender, the careers of men and women track closely until mid-career, where a glass ceiling still exists. Surveys correlate increased family commitments with diminished professional advancement. The data is very clear.

From the point of view of my firm, we look at employees with 5 or 10 years' experience as an enormous investment that we need to protect—whether its flexibility on hours or whatever. Everything we are doing is fundamentally sensible, but that's not the norm in too many firms. As with so many things going on in our society right now, there is also a recognition that the promise of diversity in the profession for African Americans has not been realized. In fact, my presidential year, 2018, will be the 50th anniversary of civil rights leader Whitney Young's condemning speech to the AIA. When we go to the AIA convention in June of 2018, I am determined that AIA must have a real plan for advancing opportunities for African Americans in the profession. The work of the Commission lays that groundwork.

One observation of the Commission really struck me. If you've grown up in a place where your environment is a negative, you are unlikely to believe that you can improve your life by designing your environment. That paradigm doesn't even exist for you. In a lot of ways, that's the root problem that we have to solve. There are firms that are doing affordable housing work, creating places for the most disadvantaged people in their societies, places that are highly designed, positive places that can convey the message that life can be better. We're going to have some very interesting challenges in the next few years.

The changing administration has divided the priorities of our nation. The president-elect and those he has selected for his cabinet have pledged to significantly alter our nation's stance on climate change, sustainability and social policy. As President-Elect of the AIA, what priorities will you put in place to guide the industry in this time of uncertainty? To be clear, I am first vice president of AIA—I cannot speak for AIA just yet. With that, I'd be happy to speak my mind!

How do we move forward? As far as President Trump's appointments are concerned, even with all the emotion aside, we're faced with some very challenging circumstances. There is really only one strategy for us, and that is to be ourselves. The AIA has what are known as official policy and position statements. They are real documents that are sweated over and reviewed, refined and tweaked. We have more than 30 policies and positions. This year, I'm in charge of reviewing them. Our goal is to get to about five statements of value or core principles that "contain" the essence of our professional beliefs. If you are an AIA member, you should be able to say, "here are our beliefs and commitments." This relates directly to the governance change that AIA has been through. Let's get to the clarity of mission—who we are and what we stand for—so that every member can understand it.

As we move forward with the new administration, we need to say, "This is who we are; this is what we believe in; this is how we shape the lives of the clients and communities we serve. Our profession represents a huge sector of the economy and your constituents." The federal government has great influence on the things that are important to the many different spheres where we operate. For example, historic tax credits help maintain affordable housing; take away those tax credits and there are fewer affordable projects. Study after study has proved

that for every dollar in historic tax credits, between four and eight dollars of additional tax revenue are generated. We need to defend those programs. I think in the end it will be healthy for us.

Personally, I want the next year to be about how architects shape lives, to get the profession focused on the human impact of what we do. We tend to get entangled in the different aspects of what we do, but people value us in the way that we shape their lives. We need to understand that.

Architects also need to set their sights on zero net carbon practice, as if it was a building code requirement. How many people is it ok to have die in a fire in a building? The number is ZERO. That's where we need to be with carbon. Zero is a really good number.

Is there is enough momentum, particularly financial incentives, to thwart off the climate deniers? I think that this is where the incoming Trump administration is most isolated. We have had not one, but two international agreements signed in the last year: Habitat III and the Paris Agreement. The world has said, "Wake up! We are adding another three billion people in the next 30 years! How are we going to do it?" If we don't do wake up to these challenges, we're talking about disaster and disruption on a tremendous scale. This is serious stuff. We've got to have a plan or there will be profound consequences. The United States is not immune. We are part of it. We're going to need to do more than build a wall.

The rest of the world understands the urgency, and as importantly, our mayors get it, governors get it, colleges and universities get it. These constituencies are prepared to do what's necessary. For us in the architecture and construction industry, this is the biggest jobs program we've ever been handed. We have an international mandate that says "retool everything about your built environment." Literally everything needs to be tweaked—how we insulate a wall, how we build a window, everything. And to accomplish it on a scale that is meaningful and achieve the goals they've set out, we need to do it everywhere.

Going back to the professional directive of shaping people's lives—we're going to shape the lives of everyone in the process. Everything, everywhere, everyone—what an amazing mandate.

The president-elect has made promises to address the country's aging infrastructure. The word infrastructure means different things to different people. What do you consider infrastructure? AIA held a conference in New York in November called the Build America Summit, organized by 2016 AIA president Russ Davidson, after hearing both candidates use infrastructure as a major talking point in their campaigns. The purpose of the summit was to establish that public buildings are, indeed, infrastructure. The AIA had Harris conduct a poll that showed that the vast majority of Americans believe buildings are part of their community infrastructure and should be included in the conversation.

We reviewed the stimulus package under Former President Obama in 2009 and I think it's more than fair to say it lacked direction; the whole shovel-ready approach missed an opportunity. Norway for instance, was on the verge of economic collapse and had to borrow money from

their grandchildren to stimulate the economy with “new deal” type programs. They said, “if we are going to borrow from our grandchildren to do this, we must do things that are in their best interest.” Our perspective was, “Let’s do whatever we can do to get people back to work!” with no other principles tied to it.

How do you become a leader? What advice do you have for young people going into the field? The AIA has conducted a Leadership Institute run by the Young Architects Forum (YAF) for a couple of years and its great. It’s young people talking about leadership. That, in and of itself is really important: young people recognizing that they are leaders now, not 20 years from now. In the profession, leadership is integral to what we do as architects. In my opinion, we spend an awful lot of time on the mechanisms of leadership. That’s not unimportant, but what you really need to lead is something that you care about. Everything else is kind of negotiable. You need to have something that is worth believing in; there has to be purpose to it.

We started this interview with the question, “What comes next?” After your presidency, what is your next chapter? My dad would be so proud of me for taking a leadership role like this; there’s always been sort of a political dimension to my family. If I was doing this 40 years ago, I’d seriously consider doing something further. What happens after AIA is a great question.

So, where do we go from here? Here’s my challenge for MAPP: MAPP is amazing. Continue pushing for relevance. A major landmark on the roadmap to 2050 is reducing the footprint of current buildings by 50%. That’s not zero, but it’s big. When you start to look at what’s needed to get there, for American architects in particular, you see we need to substantially increase the amount of renovation work. I’ve engaged the preservation community because they understand better than anyone else how to create the model for deep energy retrofit to the greatest advantage. It includes a cultural dimension as well.

[Architecture 2030 founder] Ed Mazria estimates that we will need to increase the renovation rate by three or four times in the U.S. Architects coming out of school today are going to spend more of their time doing renovation work, not new building work. I am unaware of any architecture school in the country that is the definitive renovation/adaptive reuse school. It is the biggest challenge confronting the next generation of architects. Come on, MAPP!

Allison Finkelstein's Passion for American History is her Life's Work

A little-known fact about the U.S. government is that most federal agencies must have a historian. Federal historians are the keepers of our government's history; through interpretation, collections, research and writing, they preserve the body of work of their respective agencies, whether it's the House of Representatives or the State Department.



Producing a variety of works—from reference articles for other government branches to books, videos and museum exhibits for the public—these historians ensure that historical materials are available for education, reference and guidance. UMD alumnae Allison Finkelstein assumes that role as one of the historians for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a component of the Department of Homeland Security. Allison, who graduated with a Ph.D. in history and a certificate in historic preservation in 2015, focuses on the institutional history of the agency, which spans the history of the federal government's oversight of immigration starting in 1891, and documents the different programs and milestones that make up federal immigration history and policy. This year, Allison and her team have embarked on a new documentary film about the history of USCIS, starting with the place most people associate with immigration: Ellis Island. While the story of Ellis Island has been told many times, it has rarely been seen from the perspective of those who worked there. The film aims to not only share that connection, but provide context to the inner workings of immigration and naturalization over the centuries. Extensive archival research provided the foundation for the six-minute segment, but the history is brought to life through agency artifacts from Ellis Island—such as uniforms, badges and other items—preserved and protected by the National Park Service (NPS). Allison and her team had the unique opportunity to film the items during their temporary storage at the National Park Service's Museum Resource Center in Landover, Md., where they were stored in order to be protected after hurricane Sandy. "The access provided by the NPS afforded us a truly intimate perspective," explains Allison. "While this is just part of our project to share the history of USCIS, it's such a compelling story that it will also live as a stand-alone segment."

In addition to her work for USCIS, Allison is actively involved

in several efforts surrounding this year's World War I (WWI) Centennial, a subject she has passionately pursued since graduate school. She will serve on the WWI task force for Arlington County and acts as an "expert on call" for the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission. She recently provided commentary for two historic silent films for CSPAN's Reel America series: one documented the transfer of the World War I Unknown Soldier's remains to Arlington National Cemetery in 1921 and another, a 1918 U.S. Army film called *America goes Over*, documented the U.S. military experience in WWI. The commentary transforms these silent, black-and-white videos, of which there are many in the National Archives, into a fascinating conversation uncovering little-known details of the conflict. Allison hopes that adding understanding and context to these films will make them more accessible to a larger audience. "World War One is often overlooked, yet it was such an important conflict that shaped the world as we know it," said Allison. "I think that's why I'm so invested in the centennial, to get Americans more interested in this chapter of our history." You can access video links to Allison's commentary for Reel America by visiting our website at www.arch.umd.edu.

Thomas Bucci Explores Architecture through Watercolor and Art

Twenty-one years ago, a giftshop set of watercolors changed Thomas Bucci's (M.ARCH '90) professional trajectory. A newly minted architect working for his mentor, Mark McInturff, in Washington, D.C., Thomas' chance excursion to a watercolor exhibition while on a trip to London (at Mark's recommendation) was an experience that would reignite his passion for art and merge it with his love of buildings to forge a successful career as an American watercolorist.

Thomas began his journey as an undergraduate in art school, where he yearned to paint and draw, but found he was out of his element in the 1970s art scene. "I was almost ridiculed for wanting to pursue something so archaic. Everyone was either talking or creating 'installations.' No one was just painting." After a few years of working in graphic design in New York City, Thomas' interest in cities and the urban landscape lured him to architecture school at UMD. Life and work at UMD gave Thomas something satisfying to sink his teeth into, and a reference point that would later inform his career. He found himself able to resonate with the cityscapes he grew up loving in a new way. Once out of school, Thomas continued drawing—a common thread of many practicing architects—carrying a sketchbook virtually everywhere he went. Then, in the late 90s, he encountered J.M.W. Turner's renowned watercolors on that fateful visit to London. He stopped by the museum giftshop on his way out where he bought a tiny box of watercolors, a purchase he now considers a "revelation."

It didn't happen overnight. The inspired brush strokes of Turner that seemed so effortless were, in fact, quite a lot of work. Thomas leaned on the work ethic he developed at Maryland to hone his skills and eventually turn his love of art into a career. "The kind of art I'm making takes an enormous amount of work and time. I learned a lot of things at Maryland, but the most impor-



"River Traffic-Pittsburgh," watercolor by Thomas Bucci.

tant thing I took away from my education is that you have to work really hard at something to get good at it.”

Thomas paints every day, usually in the plein air style, or outdoor daylight. A D.C. resident since '85, his line of work lends itself to travel, with the landscape in front of him serving as inspiration, not necessary gospel. “You don’t have to paint exactly what you see, you can take it as a hint.” His expansive body of work focuses mainly on the built environment—from cafes and churches to boats and farmhouses —capturing the movement, energy and occasional stillness of city life, as well as the stark tranquility of rural landscapes.

While he primarily offers his work through his website, thomasbucci.com, in the past few years he has ventured into galleries, including a show this spring at the Hill Center Galleries in Washington, D.C. He also began applying to several professional venues, showcasing his work with the Philadelphia Watercolor Society and New American Painting and Sculpture, among others. This year, one of his pieces was accepted by the American Watercolor Society for their



Thomas Bucci painting in the plein air style.

150th annual international exhibition, thought to be the highest honor for a watercolorist. His selected painting, “City Hall, Philadelphia” will appear at the Salmagundi Club in Manhattan, from April 3rd through 22nd.

Thomas credits his education at UMD as an eye-opening experience, one that taught him more about drawing than his time in art school but, more importantly, one that allowed him the self-discovery to ultimately follow his passion. “My grandfather was a stone mason and a carpenter. I’ve always loved buildings. So, I followed my curiosity, not expecting that it would lead me back to art.”

Ethan Bindernagel: Planning a 21st Century Sustainable City

Some of the best ideas are born from the singular question, “What if?” These two words are a definitive part of Ethan Bindernagel’s (M.C.P. ’05) lexicon and emulate the spirit of his adopted home state—California—where innovation and risk narrate its history, and where careful planning will forge its future.

For the past 10 years, Ethan has worked for the City of Walnut Creek, a community located about 25 miles east of San Francisco; first as a planner and, most recently, as the city’s economic development manager. Once a sleepy community of about 3,000 people in the 1940s, Walnut Creek has grown to 70,000 strong, thanks to the advent of America’s Highways in the 50s and, later, the arrival of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). Its retention of the city’s original outdoor mall—Broadway Plaza—has made Walnut Creek a destination shopping and commercial district that fuels its economic engine. Ethan’s newly-minted post positions him to outline how a city that has continually thrived economically, can continue to grow.

“The city’s economic plan has always been viewed through a development and land-use lens,” explains Ethan, “but there are so many other possibilities. What can we do that sets us apart? What can we do with respect to job creation and employment? How can we participate in the 21st Century economy?”

With Ethan’s guidance, many ideas are already in play. He is working with stakeholders from the city’s downtown business association, Walnut Creek Downtown, on sustainable initiatives like indoor agriculture. The initiative would leverage rooftops and indoor spaces—primarily in restaurants—to grow food on-site, supplementing current agricultural supply chains and providing insurance against California’s frequent droughts. “Indoor ag is not a new phenomenon,” says Ethan. “The tech is established, so why not embrace it here?” Concurrently, Ethan is working to bring jobs, opportunity and innovation to the city’s 246-acre business park, collaborating with its 75 property owners who banded together in 2014 to create a property-based business improvement district. The initiative pools a modest, locally-concentrated tax that funds improvement projects and amenities within the district to attract new businesses. It has already funded a new bus line to connect workers to BART. The initiative’s advocacy arm, which has reformed some of the area’s longstanding land-use regulations, has opened possibilities for businesses and services—including a new hotel and an emerging microbrewery—that previously weren’t possible. Both projects have allowed Ethan to leverage his knowledge of zoning and expertise in liaising with city hall. “When you can use your skills to effect change, it’s re-

ally rewarding,” he explains. “I feel like I’ve rounded a corner professionally and can now apply my land-use background in a new way to address a new set of issues.”

These initiatives set the table for a much bigger project for Ethan: this spring, he begins writing an economic development plan for Walnut Creek—the first in the city’s 103-year history. Part of that plan is envisioning new-found land uses that support the rapid growth of tech jobs and possibly lure companies and start-ups from nearby Silicon Valley. He is working with the city’s traffic engineer to enable a city-wide Wi-Fi infrastructure, which could enable new technologies—like autonomous vehicles—and position Walnut Creek as a testing bed. More affordable housing—a crisis that plagues most of California—is also in Ethan’s line of sight. “I recognize that I’m on a unique perch,” says Ethan. “It allows me to be a free thinker. I’ll try to maximize that as much as I can.”



Ethan Bindernagel

Marcus Ervin

The first course Marcus Ervin (MRED '09) took in real estate, he nearly failed. An architecture student at Morgan State University, Marcus took the course in hopes of parlaying the knowledge into a side job in the industry to make a little money. It was more than he expected. "The course was constructed like 'The Apprentice',"

Marcus, recalls laughing, "I knew nothing about financing. I was the team leader and it taught me a lot about failure." Marcus appealed to his teacher and came through the course unscathed and with a newfound interest in real estate development.

Flash forward nearly 10 years, Marcus, who received his Master of Real Estate Development in '09, is now a Senior Development Officer with Howard County Housing Commission, a group that provides high-quality, affordable housing (to date, over 1900 units) for one of the wealthiest counties in Maryland. Marcus works with agencies and local stakeholders to redevelop existing assets and acquire new ones. What makes these projects special for Marcus is the value they provide to the community. With his colleagues at Howard County Housing Commission, he has created new opportunity, vibrancy and a sense of place for thousands. His second project for the agency—Burgess Mill, located just outside Ellicott City—transformed a simple mixed-income housing site into a community asset; the group worked closely with Howard County Parks and Recreation to integrate a new rec center into the development. He credits his time at UMD for giving him the foundation that propels good community work. "I still have my old notes from school and refer to them often," says Marcus. "UMD taught me the strength of a collaborative effort, and valuing other people's opinions and expertise. It has given me the foundation to make impact through my work. The concept of the 'quadruple bottom line,' which requires sustainability, economic viability, social responsibility and beautiful design in every project, is essential to what I do. When we look at projects we hope to develop, those concepts are at the forefront."

The group's most recent acquisition is a \$65 million, 248-unit mixed-use project on the border of Anne Arundel County. It is particularly notable, not just because it is the group's largest acquisition to date, but because it was the last project Marcus worked on with his longtime colleague, Tom Carbo, before he passed away last November. Tom was particularly excited about the site; while Howard County Housing Commission typically works in class B properties—older sites with good bones, yet in good locations—this contained all the class A finishes. After Tom's death, the team considered walking away, but persevered—and won. Marcus imagines what it will mean for modest income families—teachers, firefighters, law enforcement—from Tom's view, as well as his own. "When my wife and I and our young son first started out, affordable housing helped us build the foundation for our future," says Marcus. "It's almost iconic."

Marcus' dedication to the profession stretches beyond his work for Howard County. When not at the office or home with his wife and three children, he's working with the Neighborhood Design Center, where he serves as vice president of the Board of Directors. He also still dabbles in residential real estate to keep his skills sharp. Marcus finds himself back in the classroom

occasionally, as well, only on the other side of the advising table; since 2015 he has served as a Capstone Mentor to MRED students for Maryland, an experience he finds incredibly rewarding. Marcus took first place back in the 2009 capstone competition, but he hopes his post-graduate experiences are what give his students the true edge. "Articulating the work I do on a day-to-day basis gives me the chance to step back and re-examine the industry with fresh eyes, which I strive to pass along to my students as they step into the sometimes unknown world of development," he says, conceding that this is part of the fun. "In life, like in these projects, you don't have all the answers, but that's what makes it so interesting."



Marcus Ervin with his family.

Student Profiles:

Bridging Education and Culture to Help Others: Salam Aref

Salam Aref was studying architecture at a five-year university program in Damascus, Syria, when the revolution began in 2011. The escalating civil unrest that shortly followed, forced Salam to abandon her plans of completing her degree, a dream she wouldn't realize until years later, halfway around the world, at the University of Maryland. Salam's immigrant story is reminiscent of so many—despite having completed a large portion of her degree while in Syria, academic red tape required her to start from scratch upon arriving in the U.S. But Salam, which means “peace” in Arabic, is nothing if not determined. Now, in her final year pursuing her B.S. Architecture degree, she is planning for her future, which includes graduate school, developing the preschool she launched this year with her family and growing her fledgling company, a subscription box of global accessories with a social bent named Siwarbox. Below is an excerpt of MAPP's interview with Salam this past fall. To read the entire interview, visit the MAPP website.



Salam Aref and her son.

On leaving Syria: I was born in Syria (but raised mainly in Kuwait). I returned to Damascus to study design and architecture, a passion I had discovered in primary school. I was in an intense five-year program; students started studio work right away freshman year. Then the revolution began and it was increasingly dangerous to live in Syria. It was difficult for me to cancel my admission and leave school. I went back to Kuwait, where my parents were, to regroup. At that point, I had met my husband (then fiancé), who is an American but born in Aleppo. I eventually joined him in the United States, excited to finally finish my degree only to find out that none of my credits would transfer from my university in Damascus. I had to start over.

On designing and opening a Montessori preschool: In August, my husband, mother, brother and I opened a Montessori school in Elkrige called Aya Montessori, after watching our son blossom under my mother's care using Montessori techniques. Aya means “Role Model” in Arabic. It also means “to fly” in Hebrew. My architecture education really helped me transform the space that houses the school. I was responsible for the interior design, installing the flooring, created the graphic design elements, etc. When you finally get to apply what you've been studying for years, it is thrilling—of course, I had to stay within budget!

On launching Siwarbox, a subscription box service that benefits women's causes: When I first came to the U.S., I was helping non-profits with their graphic designs to create a better image; they often don't have the money to dedicate to that. I am also very passionate about my headscarf; it's part of my identity and a symbol of my strength and femininity. I wanted to find a way to combine these passions—graphic design, my culture and my love of architecture and art history—and the box was created! This project holds a special meaning to me; I see it as an expression of love, art and a statement for united humanity, particularly in a time of division. Each box comes with a cashmere scarf that features a design indigenous to the region, a piece of jewelry and a beauty product from that country. It also holds a postcard highlighting a cultural site or architecture, complete with its history and meaning. Most importantly, 25% of the proceeds go to a different women's cause, either internationally or locally.

On making a new life in the U.S.: I try not to think about Syria, except for “How can I can help

Syrians and, particularly, refugees?” Our whole family is involved with volunteer work to help the Syrian refugees living in this area. There are quite a few in Baltimore. So many of them have been through so much trauma. I am from a very specific part of Syria where there is a pocket of the Circassian culture—I miss that. I miss the special Circassian dancing. I miss the old streets of Damascus which, I think, got me interested in art history. It’s always good to study the past. But this is my home now—my son was born here. I don’t imagine going anywhere else.

Transforming Technology into Impact: Jeanne Choquehuanca

During her senior year at Saint Mary’s College, a small, women’s liberal arts school in South Bend, Indiana, Jeanne Choquehuanca made a decision. Like many young people peering into the post-collegiate unknown, she was looking for an opportunity to make a difference. So, instead of seeking out a conventional 9-to-5 job, Jeanne (pronounced “Gina”) enlisted in a year-long stint with AmeriCorps. Within months of graduation, she was in Tucson, Arizona, where she hoped to transform her political science major and her passion for community work into impact. Working with 4-H, she initially saw grant writing as a place where she could be useful, but within the first month she was switched to the geo-spatial group, a serendipitous turn of events that would shape her next five years. “It was destiny,” explains Jeanne. “They were so passionate about what they were doing. I had no experience with GIS (Geographic Information Systems), but I quickly learned what a powerful tool it was for community development.”

The introduction to community mapping through GIS was a springboard for Jeanne, informing her project work in Guatemala for the Peace Corps the following year, where she spearheaded a youth development program and community management initiatives. After transferring to the Peace Corps’ Washington, D.C. office in 2011, Jeanne needed to plot her next move and set her sights on graduate school. “I wanted something that was a good mix of community development and GIS disciplines, a way to really impact communities,” she explains. “Urban planning was a perfect fit.” Concurrent to her admission to UMD’s Urban Planning Program, Jeanne landed a coveted USAID Payne International Development Fellowship. The fellowship not only supports her graduate study at UMD, it provides on-the-ground experience through a summer internship overseas. Jeanne’s posting took her to Uganda, where she assisted the country’s U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in updating the five-year Country Development Cooperation Strategy, a roadmap for providing aid and crisis assistance tailored to Uganda’s most vulnerable areas.

Of the hundreds of USAID missions around the world, only about 25—including Uganda’s—have a dedicated GIS specialist. Jeanne assisted the geo-spatial team in identifying the greatest needs and opportunities within the country and where USAID’s efforts could make the most impact. Using GIS, Jeanne helped determine the list of indicators—from work and education to public health and governance—and ultimately, the five urban corridors the organization would focus on over the next five years. The project was incredibly challenging, but one that provided Jeanne with the nuanced complexities of prioritizing outreach efforts in the real world. “In school, it’s easier to form an analysis because there aren’t as many stakeholders. That experience was challenging.”

At UMD, Jeanne has been an active member of the URSP community, diving head-first into GIS coursework and working as a graduate assistant on several projects, including Willow Lung-Amam’s story mapping course last spring. Jeanne’s final semester at Maryland will include Jim Cohen’s course, Growth Management in Environmental Planning, which she says aligns perfectly with her previous studies and work at USAID. She is also interning with USAID’s Global Development Lab—part of her fellowship commitment—where she’s employing satellite technology to track land cover changes, particularly in remote areas where technology and mapping is scarce. Upon graduation, USAID has a guaranteed position for Jeanne, when she will put her education and experience to work as a Foreign Service Officer with USAID. While her assignment is still unknown, it’s an unknown she’s comfortable with, so long as she’s back on the ground, making a difference.

“I really value building relationships with people. That must be the basis of my work. And that’s what I really appreciate about urban planning.”



Jane Choquehuanca worked with USAID’s geo-spatial team in Uganda last summer, identifying opportunities for organizational impact.

In the News

Play Ball: Studio Re-envision the “Heart of Campus”

For years, the University of Maryland community has recognized the campus’ iconic McKeldin Mall as the “heart of campus.” Geographically, however, one would need to look north, to UMD’s outdated Bob “Turtle” Smith Stadium, home to the Terp baseball team. This topographical misconception represents a larger disconnect—a physical division—where students must maneuver around UMD’s looming stadiums to traverse north and south on campus, as well as a perceived social division between students and student-athletes. In the spring of 2016, a multi-disciplinary studio course between the anthropology and architecture programs examined this space with a vision for the future, a vision that connects campus and community more holistically and plans for what’s to come. The devised master plan breaks down the physical and perceptual barriers through design, realizing the vibrancy—and potential—of the “heart” of campus. Last fall, a project book was developed for the baseball team and university administrators. In it, the students envision a north-south mall concept that forges the missing connection between north and south campus, and emphasize a state-of-the-art ballfield with surrounding amenities anchoring the southern point. “As University of Maryland students, we are filled with school pride and are always looking for another opportunity to celebrate our university,” said M.ARCH student Emily Latham. “Designing the Maryland baseball stadium and surrounding area to be a place of excitement and activity is something that will benefit the campus for years to come.”



Entry plaza looking at main entrance to the proposed new baseball stadium. To the right of the image is Fieldhouse Drive in back of the STAMP Student Union. The image is by Robert Grooms a graduate student in Architecture and Real Estate Development.

UMD Accelerates Path to Architecture Licensure through NCARB’s IPAL Initiative

The University of Maryland’s architecture program was accepted into the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB) Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) initiative this past summer. By blending experience and examination into the curricula, the initiative will provide students with the opportunity to complete licensure requirements while earning a degree, forging an accelerated path to professional practice. IPAL was developed by NCARB’s Licensure Task force, a team of licensing board members, industry leaders, recently-licensed and candidate architects, as well as educators, including former MAPP Dean David Cronrath. Under the new initiative, UMD’s architecture program will incorporate NCARB’s Intern Development Program (IDP), an essential tool for gaining experience in the practice, into undergraduate and graduate curriculum requirements. The initiative also offers students the opportunity to take all six parts of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) while still in school.



RIGHT: Students in Historic Preservation course HISP 655 work on the fabrication of a wood joint using hand tools. HISP 655 is divided into three parts: the first is a primer on building styles and building technology, the second is building archaeology and documentation, and the third is vernacular architecture scholarship on the cultural/social uses of space. The wood joinery exercise is done during the building technology part of the class.

International Design Studio “Bridges the Gap” Between Two Vastly Different Worlds

Last spring, a studio paired architecture students from UMD with Iraqi students from Al-Nahrain University in UMD’s first-ever international design studio. Sponsored by Gensler D.C., Bridging the Gap (BTG) centered on closing the distance and cultural gaps that exist across two continents, by exploring the commonalities, differences and challenges of each culture. Rely-





Casey Dawkins Named URSP and Ph.D. Program Director

In July Dean Cronrath appointed Dr. Casey Dawkins as director of both MAPP's Urban Studies and Planning and Ph.D. programs. Casey has been an associate professor of UMD's Urban Studies program and a research associate for the National Center for Smart Growth since 2011. Prior to his tenure at UMD, Casey spent nine years teaching urban planning at Virginia Tech, where he also served as director for the Center for Housing Research and for the Metropolitan Institute. His research focuses on U.S. housing policy; metropolitan housing market dynamics; the causes, consequences and measurement of residential segregation; and the link between land use regulations and housing affordability. Casey takes the helm from Dr. Jim Cohen (Urban Studies and Planning) and Dr. Marie Howland (Ph.D.).

ing on the help and perspectives of their cross-cultural peers, Al-Nahrain University students tackled a design challenge in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington, D.C., while UMD students were tasked with developing an overall master plan for the neighborhood surrounding Tahrir Square in Bagdad. The UMD students' projects, which included the adaptive reuse of a bus depot, riverfront and a vacant, subterranean shopping center, stemmed from a common desire communicated by their Iraqi counterparts: to reimagine a better future for a neighborhood significantly scarred by war and terrorism. Achieving this goal was not without its challenges; UMD students had no access the Iraqi site and were stymied by a lack of tools that are commonplace in U.S. architecture practice, such as street views from Google Earth and government websites. Instead, the students relied almost entirely on social media and regular video conference calls with their peers to gain a better understanding of daily life in Bagdad. The project culminated in a competition that awarded internships at the Gensler D.C. office to two Iraqi students and two UMD students (Paula Coronado and Jennifer Chorosevic who were selected for their winning designs). The studio was part of the Gensler Innovation Fund, designed to fuel innovative and interesting projects, and was spearheaded by Gensler Principal and Managing Director Jordan Goldstein, AIA (B.S. Architecture '94). Among the many players involved were Associate Professor Madlen Simon, who led the UMD students, and Gensler's Goldstein and JJ Rivers (M.ARCH and M.RED '14).

Exploring Community Identity through Storytelling

Last spring, a new Urban Studies and Planning (URSP) course combined long-established methods of community mapping and oral storytelling with 21st century Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and web technologies to understand neighborhood identity. Led by Assistant Professor Willow Lung-Amam and her teaching assistant Jeanne Choquehuanca, 20 graduate students examined five Washington, D.C. neighborhoods that have experienced significant demographic change and development over the past few decades. Known as community mapping, this highly participatory exercise used the narratives of people who live and work in the area as the primary information source; students compiled dozens of interviews for each area, speaking with both long-term and new residents, business owners and community leaders. These interviews yielded a catalog of common neighborhood names, boundaries, important places and personal stories. The students then combined this information with U.S. Census data, historical records, photographs, audio recordings, video footage and links to other websites to create five interactive "story map" websites that offer perspectives and stories of change, as told by the people who have lived it. "Communities sometimes have hard time talking about the things that really matter to them," said Dr. Lung-Amam, "Stories allow residents to express not only what they care about, but also what's worth fighting for."

Historic Preservation Program Sheds Light on C & O Canal's African-American Roots

This fall, UMD's historic preservation program launched a year-long project for the National Park Service-National Capital Region (NPS-NCR) that will uncover an overlooked narrative of the famed C & O Canal: the stories of the African-Americans, immigrants and women who built and worked along its banks for more than a century. The C & O Canal project is part of the NPS-NCR's initiative to tell a more inclusive story of the canal, one that recognizes its diverse

history and the contributions of those who made it an economic engine for the region. The project will be led by Assistant Clinical Professor of Historic Preservation Brent Leggs, who is also a senior field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), and is under the direction of Principal Investigator Dr. Don Linebaugh.

National Park Service Renews Preservation Projects for the National Capital Region

Two existing contracts with the National Park Service-National Capital Region were renewed this fall, continuing a six-year partnership to protect, preserve and celebrate the region's National Treasures. A contract extension to conduct historic structures fieldwork within the National Capital Region will once again have students documenting the condition of hundreds of historic buildings and structures. This year, students will tackle 25 miles of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GW Parkway) and 70 miles of the C & O Canal, areas originally assessed by the program in 2011, updating conditions of over 150 structures along the GW Parkway and over 400 structures along the C & O Canal. The student work, which includes notes and photographs of each structure's existing condition, is completed all on foot or by bike. This valuable information not only serves as a running history of the area's historic resources, it also clues the NPS into any changes, deterioration or storm damage seen on the ground. The Potomac Gorge project also continues this year, examining the important connections between natural and cultural resources and mapping best practices for protecting and preserving them in the face of a changing, modern society. One of the most ecologically diverse areas of Maryland, the gorge is also less than one mile from the nation's capital, making it the intersection of nature and human settlement for centuries. Working for the past two years with campus experts, and anthropology and preservation students, Faculty Research Associate Dr. Kristen Crase has laid the groundwork for an extensive synthetic report outlining the entire human history of the area, in the hopes that the model can be replicated by the NPS in other parts of the country. Covering topics like transportation, trade history, plants and wildlife, the report will offer many clues to understanding how the area's resources intersect. More importantly, it will help administrators understand how practices between the many organizations at work in the area interrelate.

"Sustainable Placemaking" Challenges Students to Apply Skills from the Classroom to their Communities

Everybody has one: A place you pass by every day that has potential to be something more. These are sites in our communities that fall somewhere on the spectrum of space, but that no longer achieve "place." This fall, Lecturer Heidi Bulich challenged students to move the needle forward, leveraging skills learned in the classroom to re-envision a community space into something more useful, joyous and sustainable. The course, People, Planet and Profit: Building Sustainable Places (ARCH 271/RDEV 250), introduces students to key elements of sustainable development and the skills to assess spaces holistically, combining them to create a community asset. Students apply planning, design and funding concepts—from public-private partnerships to adaptive reuse—in order to develop innovative visions for individually-chosen, actual sites.

This eclectic project roster included a “pocket park” near a transit hub and public pools; transforming a garbage dump into a community garden; and replacing abandoned New York City subway platforms with art galleries and underground gardens. In semesters to come, the course will potentially be a gateway for community outreach, good citizenship and grassroots revitalization.

UMD/Morgan State EDA Center Leverages New Funding to Network Statewide University Resources

The University of Maryland/Morgan State Joint Center for Economic Development (EDA Center) will leverage a new grant, secured from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA), to pool resources from across the University System of Maryland (USM) in addressing economic challenges that face Maryland’s most vulnerable communities. EDA Center Director Dr. Scott Dempwolf will work with USM’s new Vice Chancellor for Economic Development, Tom Sadowski, to develop a statewide network of economic developers working in and with USM’s 12 member-institutions and two regional higher education centers. The network will connect economic research, resources and best practices across all of the institutions, which will strengthen the capacity of USM and its member institutions to translate Maryland’s investments in research and education into local economic development impact statewide. Dempwolf will apply innovation network analysis tools developed under the EDA Center over the past five years. In addition, the EDA Center will use its collaborative resources to assist with developing innovation districts, including Baltimore’s Innovation Village, to provide technical assistance to Maryland communities and facilitate technology transfer, commercialization and entrepreneurship.

Urban Planning Courses Aim to Streamline Public Services in Anne Arundel County

Three urban planning projects conducted through the PALS program this year for Anne Arundel County, Md., found that small changes to county services can have big impacts for residents, boosting quality of life across the county. The first study, which mapped transit opportunities for low income residents, showed that while transit reaches concentrated, low-income communities, there is a lack of overall coverage. The study suggested that small tweaks in transit schedules—relocating bus stops or slightly changing routes—would make a significant impact on vulnerable residents and improve access to transit. Students in another transportation group developed a consolidated transit map and interactive online dashboard to allow county representatives, residents and visitors bridge the gap between accessibility and mobility. A third county study charged students with analyzing EMS dispatches for life-threatening incidents that occur during peak hours to assist the county in improving effectiveness. Using ArcGIS software, the team produced “heat maps” connecting the number and times of emergency incidents to the 31 fire stations serving the county. When the maps were overlaid to identify spatial and temporal patterns and trends, it allowed EMS “hot spots” to emerge. The resulting data will help EMS optimize their resources. Like the transit study, the EMS study showed that small changes, like modifying the service areas of each firehouse, could have a big impact on response times. A spring project will integrate the transportation model with the hot spot map to see both real time traffic and real time emergency response, allowing further

analysis of transportation routes and response times. The three projects were predicated on a land use map and database developed by UMD last summer for the city of Annapolis, the first such inventory in the city's history.

Colvin Institute Kicks off Annual Colvin Case Study Challenge

This fall, 19 teams from university programs across the nation vied for a \$10,000 prize in the first annual Colvin Case Study Challenge, sponsored by the Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development. The Colvin Case Study Challenge is a national retrospective written case study competition that challenges teams to document a recent innovative real estate project within its own metropolitan region. Projects were judged on the depth of understanding of markets, project valuation, finance, urban design, entitlement processes and operational issues by leading real estate professionals. This year's jury included UMD alums Michael Johnson, CEO of UrbanCore, Tom Burton, COO and CIO of Alex Brown Realty, and Davor Kapelina, founder of AtSite, Inc. A team from Columbia University was awarded top prize. "The finalists' presentations were outstanding representations of the future of our industry and reflected the core mission of the Colvin Institute, namely, forwarding the principles of sustainable development," said Margaret McFarland, Director of the Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development. "Our goal with the Case Study Challenge was to showcase some of the emerging, innovative talent that will soon enter the profession."

Students Help Preserve the Home and Legacy of John Coltrane

This fall, Assistant Clinical Professor of Historic Preservation Brent Leggs and eleven graduate students from the historic preservation program developed a comprehensive building use study to identify creative re-development opportunities for John Coltrane's home in Dix Hill, New York. The finished document, which will be unveiled to the Friends of the Coltrane Home's Board of Directors in March, embodies the social value of the Coltrane legacy while providing recommendations for developing revenue sources to advance the organization's larger goals. The recommendations recognize an important and financially necessary trend in sustaining historic places: moving from the traditional "museum house" model to one where places earn revenue to remain financially sustainable. The team focused on several overarching themes for their programmatic vision, including music, education and empowerment. "There is obviously a large social mission we needed to convey, but the house has to sustain itself financially," explains Tom Gross, a graduate student in Historic Preservation and one of the project team members. "We needed to explore ways to produce income on the site and go beyond convention."

UMD Reaches Beyond Sustainability for Entry in USDOE Solar Decathlon 2017

After a brief hiatus from the competition arena, the University of Maryland returns this October as one of thirteen teams participating in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2017 in Denver, Colorado. Led by Professor of Architecture Garth Rockcastle, Architecture Lecturer Mike Binder, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Ray Adomaitis and former Architecture Librarian, Patricia Kosco Cossard, UMD students from disciplines across campus begin construction this spring on their entry, [re] ACT (short for "responsive adaptable climate

Fifteen architecture graduate students worked with Architect of the Capitol (and MAPP alum) Stephen Ayers, FAIA, and his staff on urban design proposals to reconnect the district of Columbia across the SE/SW freeway. While a major point of entry into D.C., the freeway carves through the southern tip of Washington, sectioning off the waterfront, downtown, the National Mall and Capitol Hill; Combined with the urban renewal efforts of the 1960's, the freeway played a role in the degradation and isolation of these neighborhoods. The studio, led by Professor Matthew Bell, FAIA, proposed alternatives to how the highway could be bridged, or perhaps even re-conceived, with new development to reconnect across the city and provide better access to the emerging waterfront.



Associate Professor Dennis Pogue, Faculty Research Associate Kirsten Crase and six historic preservation students spent a month last summer engaging the program's long-term survey of the former farm properties of Kiplin Estate, most of which were sold off in the early part of the 20th century. The group concentrated on the photographic documentation and structural measurement of two farmhouses and collected oral histories from two additional property owners, one of whom spent his entire life on the estate.



ABOVE: Students working on the Solar Decathlon project in studio.

technology”). [re] ACT promises to transfer—and transform—waste into resources through a central, north/south “spine,” while integrating indoor and outdoor spaces for flexible living and performance. [re] ACT is not a one-off prototype; it is an homage to the 20th century Sears Catalog Home with a 21st century bent, designed as a “kit of parts.” The [re] ACT concept is a high-powered configuration of state-of-the-art systems that can be arranged to create a near endless catalog of building sizes and forms, adaptable to different weather conditions, landscapes, populations and resource availability. Housing features will include a smart core, which is capable of harnessing the sun for energy, cooking and even drying dishes; a central courtyard with retractable walls and roof; and a whole-house “brain” that anticipates weather patterns and adjusts the home’s operations accordingly. The balance of comfort and zero net waste positions [re] ACT as a potential market-ready offering. And, while [re] ACT aims to transform the residential construction industry, it was also conceived with a socially-conscious twist: the entry was designed specifically to address the dearth of decent, affordable housing available to Native American Tribes. Working closely with two separate tribes in Arizona and Minnesota, team leaders hope to deliver a product that fosters empowerment, comfort and independence.

Examining the Past and Future of the Rossborough Inn

One of the biggest misconceptions on UMD’s campus is that Morrill Hall is the oldest building on campus. In fact, it’s the Rossborough Inn, which was sold as part of the Calvert land deal to form the University of Maryland in the 1800s. This year, students from UMD’s historic preservation program delved into the storied history of the Rossborough—from its early days as a 19th-century tavern to its present-day admissions office—and devised its future role in an evolving neighborhood, which includes the impending Purple Line, a new UMD-Phillips Art Museum, a new School of Public Policy and the university’s innovation district. Commissioned by university facilities, the study looks at “opportunities to return the Rossborough and its historic landscape as prominent features of the university, while respecting the character and the contributions of the oldest building on the campus.

PALS Program Brings Sustainability Solutions to Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Strategies to protect the Annapolis waterfront from storm surges, promote heroin and suicide prevention and foster easier pathways from farm to table are just a snapshot of 33 priority projects the University of Maryland’s Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program is tackling in its fourth community partnership, this time with Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, Md. Graduate and undergraduate students from colleges and departments across campus completed 14 projects—ten for the county and four for the city—over the summer and fall semester. In addition to reports and recommendations on a number of topics, the coursework generated a recommendation and demonstration of software to help the county track electricity usage in county facilities in real time, and mapped analysis of public safety hotspots to help improve EMS service. An urban studies course, taught by Dr. Scott Dempwolf, examined ways to strengthen the maritime industry in Annapolis, an integral piece of the city’s economy and culture. Ideas include zoning changes, educational opportunities for maritime trades, such as sail making and a maker space that could potentially cultivate new start-ups.

"I am thrilled with the results of the project; the class went above and beyond my expectations," said Hollis Minor, Economic Development Manager for Annapolis' Department of Planning and Zoning. "The team collaborated continually with the maritime community throughout the project and produced very targeted recommendations with specific actions, rather than a broad report that would sit on a shelf and gather dust."

Developed by UMD's National Center for Smart Growth, PALS pairs faculty expertise and student ingenuity with sustainability challenges facing Maryland communities. The PALS mission is to provide high quality, low-cost assistance to local governments while creating an active and valuable real-world learning experience for UMD students. PALS initiated its first partnership with The City of Frederick, in September 2014, adding a second, smaller collaboration with College Park in January 2015. In the fall of 2015, PALS launched partnerships with Howard County and the Columbia Association. In addition, a smaller collaboration last fall with the Southwest Partnership in Baltimore helped create feasible development projects on several Southwest Baltimore sites and built a GIS database that shows key statistics, such as job opportunities, vacant housing and vehicle ownership. This fall, PALS also provided similar support to the Mount Royal Community Development Corporation in the City of Baltimore.



Students from ARCH 402 toured two project sites in Washington, D.C.'s emerging Southwest waterfront in November, as they conducted research prior to designing a multi-family housing project in the Baltimore neighborhood of Mount Vernon. The two projects, designed by Perkins Eastman, offered a glimpse at new, sustainably-focused development that balances market trends—a demand for urban, amenity-heavy, swanky enclaves—and the existing neighborhood context. "The project challenges students to design a sustainable building in a very historic neighborhood," explains lecturer Brittany Williams. "They must grapple with how the design fits within the context of both the neighborhood's history and Baltimore's emerging identity."

The partnership with Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis marks the first time PALS has partnered with both a city and county concurrently, a nod to County Executive Steve Schuh and Annapolis Mayor Mike Pantelides' continued efforts to collaborate for stronger, more sustainable communities. The combined jurisdiction—over half a million people—is nearly double the size of last year's efforts in Howard County. PALS 2017 brings an additional 19 projects to the county and city, including projects to help the county expand transit options to BWI, improve boat access to the bay and county waterways, create a master plan for the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center and develop a public health and recreation plan for Annapolis.

Casting Light on African American History

This fall, preservationist Brent Leggs guided 11 historic preservation students in developing a riff on jazz legend John Coltrane's Dix Hills, N.Y. home, one that emphasizes an emerging trend in sustaining historic places: the evolution of the traditional "museum house" into a place that earns revenue to remain financially sustainable. A Senior Field Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and a Harvard Loeb Fellow, Brent joined UMD's HISP faculty this year as a clinical professor, bringing with him 15 years of experience in African-American heritage preservation and an eclectic background in preservation, finance and real estate. Alternative preservation practices are a specialty of Leggs; at the NTHP, he has worked to leverage historic sites to both preserve and enhance community, including Joe Frazier's Gym and Birmingham's A.G. Gaston Motel, recently named a National Monument by former President Obama. He will continue to help lead efforts in the development of the motel and surrounding site under its new designation, the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument. Brent is also spearheading a year-long project for the National Park Service-National Capital Region (NPS-NCR) that tells the C&O Canal story from a lesser-known perspective, that of the immigrants, African Americans and women who built it and worked along its banks. "As we celebrate this year, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the preservation movement seeks new ideas and solutions for the

next 50 years,” said Leggs. “This long-view must include the re-evaluation of often outdated and unsustainable business models that are solely dependent on philanthropic support. Moving forward, the development of culture-based businesses that integrate both interpretive and commercial activities will set the new standard for sustainable preservation.”

Leveraging Tech to Inform Vibrant Communities

For over a decade, Chao Liu, a faculty research associate at the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG), has dedicated her research efforts to some of the center’s most notable studies in land use and transportation. Chao’s expertise in planning theory and technologies, coupled with her enthusiasm and energy in the classroom, has galvanized her students on several projects that, in the simplest terms, could help greatly improve quality of life for Maryland citizens. In the fall, she led graduate students in developing neighborhood assessment indexes in Baltimore, using vacant housing, employment and crime indicators to identify opportunities for Baltimore’s Mount Royal Community. She galvanized a high school internship program to sift through the freight data of Maryland’s most beleaguered transit corridors, resulting in sug-



ABOVE: Assistant Clinical Professor Brent Leggs and Historic Preservation student Jamesha Gibson co-facilitated the African American Preservation Meeting at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Past/Forward Conference in December.

gestions that could ease congestion by altering freight routes. Her three courses this year in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis for the PALS program will help county agencies improve services—such as transit and EMS—to residents.

Along with her colleagues at NCSG, Chao continues to examine the economic impact of the proposed Purple Line; she and colleagues Hiro Iseki and Gerrit Knaap are also developing a ridership model for Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), after the organization saw the results of a similar study the team conducted for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Driving her efforts is a singular idea: to leverage planning technologies, like GIS, to inform and empower. After revealing that over 65% of residents in Charles and Frederick Counties work outside their jurisdictions, Chao is now examining how the counties could attract employers, leverage incentives and showcase local talent. “This is where I want to make an impact,” said Chao, who also teaches several classes for the Urban Studies and Planning Program (URSP). “Using technology to make sense of the rough data is a very powerful tool for communities and can provide a roadmap for economic and sustainable growth. The idea of making an impact on everyday people is a huge driver for me.”

As a Ph.D. candidate, Chao saw the power and possibilities of GIS—not just in research, but in the classroom—and lobbied then-URSP Director, Jim Cohen, to allow her to create “Planning Technology,” the first campus-wide course on GIS open to graduate and undergraduate students. Now in its seventh year, the course has attracted students in public policy, archeology, public health and more. A biology student last year used skills gained from the course to geocode coral reefs in the Virgin Islands and assess suitable environments for sea life; another used it track bird migration. Chao believes that the integration of teaching and research she employs in the course can influence how students learn in real-world ways. “Applying tools to an actual project is so much more effective than the theory alone,” she explains. “Active learning enhances how I teach and provides my students opportunities for empowerment and discovery.”

Encouraging Engagement: the Importance of Resilience, Sustainability and Community-Centered Placemaking

Last year, Heidi Bulich took over teaching ARCH 271: People, Planet and Profit, Building Sustainable Places. When Heidi went to revise the class, she had an idea: why not pair the core concepts of planning, design, development and preservation, with the spirit and drive of the student body, to create a vehicle for change? Having two children in their twenties herself, she understood the tug of engagement and the desire to make an impact that is imprinted on the DNA of the Millennial Generation; creating an active learning environment, where students could put their classroom knowledge to work—she hoped—would have broad appeal.

She was right. After debuting last spring with 118 undergraduate students from across campus, People, Planet and Profit: Building Sustainable Places made an unscheduled return in the fall to meet the demand. This spring Heidi has her largest class ever—146 students. While the course culminates with a community-centered placemaking project for each student, it is front-

loaded with information on issues central to achieving sustainability in the built environment, such as public-private partnerships, transportation planning, fair and affordable housing, urban planning and adaptive reuse. Stressed throughout is the idea of resilience and how individuals can effect change in the face of seemingly intractable contemporary issues, such as urbanization and climate change. “Resilience is very similar to risk management,” says Heidi, drawing parallels to her time practicing law in Detroit. “They both recognize that nothing ever remains the same. An optimal solution is not ignoring risk. Ideally, business leaders either accept risk or try to minimize it. The real challenge is first, understanding the problem, and then strategically planning an outcome that is acceptable. This relates very closely to resilience, so we talk about attacking these issues head-on. Only then, can you achieve sustainability.”

Heidi explains that, over the semester, students begin to connect the dots and get a better understanding of what is important to them and where they want to engage as citizens. The built environment is an obvious place and one that can be intertwined with many different professions. “The students love the class, which I think is a good thing for the school,” said Heidi. “A lot of students don’t even know that there is a school of architecture and that there are assorted opportunities to work in the built environment. It opens up a lot of new possibilities for them.”

One of those opportunities is a new minor. The debut of Heidi’s course dovetailed nicely with the launch of the school’s new minor in Real Estate Development, which she also oversees. Of the 65 students currently enrolled in the minor—many of them economics, architecture and business majors—43% of them learned about it through Heidi’s class. “I want my students to understand that they can be the change for good,” she explains. “I want to ignite a spark that they take into their profession and make them feel confident in driving the process in their communities.”

Lectures and Special Events

Lectures

Suzane Reatig, FAIA, Washington, D.C.

"Practicing Architecture in the 21st Century"

Sponsored by the Kea Distinguished Professor Endowment

Carolyn Armenta Davis, Hon. AIA, Chicago

"21st Century Black Diaspora Architects"

Sponsored by NOMAS & the Harold L. Adams Practice-Leadership Endowment



Carolyn Armenta Davis with Director Brian Kelly after her lecture on the 21st Century Black Diaspora.

Andy Altman, Washington, D.C.

"London's 2012 Olympic Legacy: The Design Ideas that Transformed a City"

Sponsored by the J. Guy Lombardo, Jr. Memorial Lecture Fund

Frances Bronet, IIT & Alito Alessi, DanceAbility International

"Feel the Force"

Sponsored by MAPP Diversity & Inclusion Lecture

M.V. Rajeev Gowda, Member of Parliament, Republic of India

"Real Estate in India: Challenges & Opportunities"

Sponsored by the Colvin Institute

Professor Isabelle Gournay and Associate Professor Cynthia Field

"The Architecture of Thomas Jefferson"

J. David Waggoner III, FAIA, New Orleans, La.

"Living with Water: Urban Design in New Orleans after Katrina"

Sponsored by the J. Guy Lombardo, Jr. Memorial Lecture Fund

Panel Discussion: *Building the City: Current Multi-family Projects and the Fabric of Washington, D.C.*

Eric Colbert, AIA, Eric Colbert and Associates

Sami Kirkdill, AIA, SK&I Architects

Bill Bonstra, FAIA, LEED AP, Bonstra/Haresign

Eric Leibman, AIA, LEED AP, WDG Architect

Nooni Reatig, AIA, Suzane Reatig Architecture

Sponsored by the J. Guy Lombardo, Jr. Memorial Lecture Fund

Student Awards

Awards and Achievements

HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition 2016 (Second Place):

Oluwatobi (Tobi) Thomas (MRED)
Nicole Akpedeye (MCP/ARCH)
Meghan Leahy (ARCH/MRED)
Robert Grooms (ARCH/MRED)
David Brotman (MRED).

2016 AIA COTE Top Ten for Students Design Competition:

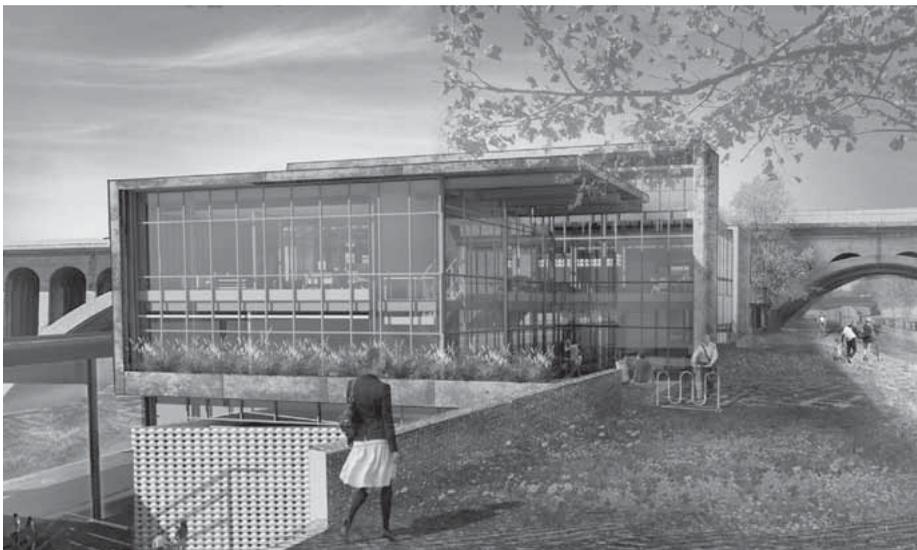
Erin Barkman (ARCH)
Emily Latham (ARCH)

AIA Maryland Design Awards

Erin Barkman (ARCH)
Emily Latham (ARCH)
Jennifer Chorosevic (ARCH)
Kenneth Filler (ARCH)

Award of Merit: AIA DC 2016 Unbuilt Awards

Thuy Do (ARCH)
Haomin Yang (ARCH)



“Creativity Sustaining Community,” (Pigmental Headquarters) by Erin Barkman and Emily Latham the 2016 AIA COTE Top Ten for Students Design Competition. Peter Noonan was the faculty advisor.

Thank You, David

In October, David Cronrath stepped down as dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation after six years of leadership. A visionary, mentor and friend, David made a significant impact on the school, transforming the future of its education and fostering a collaborative, curious and “fearless” environment for students, faculty and staff. Arriving at UMD from Louisiana State University, where he served as Dean of the College of Art & Design, David brought a progressive vigor to the dean’s office and championed several initiatives during his tenure. He tapped directors to develop a new budgetary system, increasing both efficiency and input to advance the school. He restored relationships with other colleges and upper administration, particularly the provost’s office, to cultivate partnerships, tout MAPP’s achievements and connect the school to broader university initiatives. David also worked closely with directors and deans across campus to increase the offerings at the school, including an expansion of dual degrees, interdisciplinary opportunities and two new undergraduate minors—construction management and real estate development. He was an early champion of the National Center for Smart Growth’s PALS program—now the foremost active learning program for the university—providing resources and support that helped grow the program in size and stature. “David worked tirelessly to help the school govern itself again,” said Don Linebaugh. “He challenged us to step up and retake control of faculty governance in a meaningful way and engaged in a total remaking of the school’s administrative infrastructure.”

True to his origins as a designer, David organized extensive upgrades to the school’s space and resources. With David’s help, studio spaces and classrooms benefit from new lighting, acoustics, collaborative workstations and at-the-ready resources, from 3D printers and mobile flat screens to retractable, configurable power cords. These changes—both big and small—anticipated the needs of today’s students and encourage collaboration outside the classroom. He grew the school’s staff, including communications support and a new career development specialist, and instilled a transparent, open-door culture that encouraged conversation and problem-solving.

“David truly cared about the well-being of the staff in the school,” said Ingrid Farrell, assistant dean of internal affairs and budget. “His approach to staff empowerment was unique. He encouraged us to bring problems to the table at our staff meetings and he would coach us through solutions. We could always depend on his support.”

David’s affable personality and dedication to the practice engaged alumni in many ways and included increasing the number of sponsored studios and real-world projects for students and fortifying the Board of Visitors, which now represents all of the school’s disciplines. With the help of development officers John Jeronimo and Laura Mikolajko, annual giving is now over \$1.2 million a year.

While David continues to teach at the school, the relinquishment of his deanship responsibilities has been a boon to several other initiatives on campus, most notably, the Office of the Provost, where he will help launch the university's Administrative Modernization Project. David also acts as campus liaison to The Phillips Collection, as part of its new partnership with UMD.

David's Mark on MAPP

By Glenn Bix, FAIA LEED AP, principal and vice president of Ayers Saint Gross; Chairman, Board of Visitors

I have had the pleasure of knowing David since the beginning of his career as Dean. He has been steadfast as an articulate, outspoken leader and, most significantly, he has made the school into a model for the education of the future design professional. At the core of this change is his deep understanding that the architects and planners of the future need to be collaborative leaders; as such, he made deep and lasting curriculum changes to reflect and address that need. He was instrumental in bringing the Real Estate and Construction Management minors to the school—a task that was not without its challenges. The fruits of David's leadership can be seen in the numerous student awards that the school has received during his deanship, including a Solar Decathlon win

and several awards from the Urban Land Institute.

David's legacy will be his leading role in the arduous process of changing how to effectively educate future design professionals in a time of rapid changes. This is the mark of a true leader of a school that innovates: the willingness to make changes, and to do so with conviction and knowledge. More than anything, though, I will long remember his personal integrity: he says what he means and he means what he says, all the while remaining one of the truly nicest human beings I have met. It also doesn't hurt that he makes a mean home-made pasta. I'll miss that, too.



FACULTY News

Assistant Professor **Willow Lung-Amam** is currently serving as a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Ford Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow at American University. Last summer, she completed the manuscript for the book entitled *Trespassers?: Asian Americans and the Battle for Suburbia*, which will be published by the University of California Press in May. She is currently writing another book on the politics of suburban redevelopment in the Washington, D.C. region.

Last fall, Willow began as faculty at the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, where she is engaged in a number of other projects related to housing, community development and equity planning. These include assessing regional equity plans in Baltimore and other U.S. metropolitan areas, studying housing quality in Langley Park, Maryland, and monitoring neighborhood change along Maryland's proposed Purple Line light rail. The projects are supported by grants from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Enterprise Community Partners and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She was also awarded UMD's Research and Scholarship Award from the Graduate School this fall.

Articles by Willow were republished in *The Suburb Reader* (2nd edition) and *Immigrant Identity and the Politics of Citizenship* and a report that she co-authored with Casey Dawkins, Gerrit Knaap and others on affordable housing strategies for Langley Park was also released. Willow presented her work in several academic and professional conferences, including a workshop sponsored by the British Academy in South Africa in December.

Professor **Matthew Bell, FAIA**, directed a graduate urban design studio this past fall that focused on options to bridge the SE/SW Freeway in Washington, D.C. The studio will be discussing the work with D.C. officials and private developers in the spring of 2017. Professionally, Matt's project, Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., completed with his firm Perkins Eastman D.C., received a 2016 Presidential Citation for Sustainable Design from the AIA|DC. His speaking engagements in 2016 included the Brick Institute at the National Building Museum, CoreNet Mid-Atlantic and DesignDC. Matt is currently sponsoring a UMD team for the ULI/Gerald Hines Urban Design Competition with colleague Margaret McFarland.

Professor **Carl Bovill** has been promoted to full professor by the University of Maryland's Architecture Program. Carl has taught materials and methods



Architecture 635: Seminar in the History of Modern Architecture taught by Professor Isabelle Gournay holds a poster session for the school on their research work.



ABOVE: Dean and Professor David Cronrath having pizza with students at the annual Fall Semester Pizza Party.



RIGHT: Professor Matt Bell, FAIA speaking to students at studio reviews.

of construction, sustainability, environmental control systems and technical system integration in design at the University of Maryland for nearly 25 years. Carl's most recent book, *Sustainability in Architecture and Urban Design*, offers a guide to sustainable construction in an environment-in-flux.

Professor **David Cronrath** is on assignment at UMD's Provost's Office working on three projects. First, he is acting university liaison with The Phillips Collection, fostering the partnership between The Phillips and the University of Maryland. Activities are focused on expanding academic opportunities at The Phillips including the artists and music lecture series, research ranging from undergraduate research projects to postdoctoral work and outreach in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County in conjunction with the College of Education. David is also working on the planning of new facilities and long-range changes in learning and the impact on space and its design. Lastly, David is a member of the Administration Modernization Project (AMP) leadership team. AMP's mission is to make the university's administrative operations, services and processes more effective and efficient so the subsequent change will advance the strategic mission of the university. AMP works with the entire University community to discover opportunities, study options, implement practices and assess outcomes, resulting in better levels of service to students, faculty and staff.

Professor **Chengri Ding's** new book, *Urban Spatial Planning: Theory and*



Professor David Cronrath was awarded the Paul H. Kea Medal last fall by AIA Potomac Valley, for his contributions to architecture education and his leadership and service to the profession. The Kea Medal is the chapter's highest honor. Above he is with AIA Chapter President Szymanski at the awards ceremony.



ABOVE: Dean Sonia Hirt receives the prestigious the 2016 John Friedmann Book Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.



ABOVE: Dr. Isabelle Gournay reviewing student presentations in her history class.



LEFT: Dr. Hiro Iseki

RIGHT: Professor and Director Brian Kelly looks on during student presentations.

Method, has been accepted and will be released by The China Engineering and Construction Press. In addition to several journal articles under review, he authored articles for *Environment and Planning B* and *Urban Insight*, both slated to release later this year. Chengri was busy on the conference circuit in 2016, presenting papers and research at conferences around the world. He is slated to present at the 7th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association later this spring.

Associate Professor **Ronit Eisenbach** led a bi-national team to design *Hot/Cold*, an engaging art installation in Haifa, Israel, for the Holiday of Holiday Festival celebrating Christmas, Chanukah and Ramadan. *Hot/Cold* was commissioned by Beit HaGefen, an arts and cultural organization founded in the 1960s, whose mission is to promote tolerance and build a shared society. The theme of this year's festival was "Play." The extended horizontal surface is situated both inside and outside of the gallery and aims to support efforts to spark cross-community dialogue and spontaneous interaction

across religious lines. Within the gallery, the *Hot/Cold* table is an intimate object referencing shared meals. As it moves beyond the gallery it reinforces the temporary public space and the theme of play created by closing the main street for the festival. A heat sensitive ink covers the surface of the interior table. When touched, the ink turns clear revealing open-ended phrases in Hebrew or Arabic, requiring translation. The table will be on exhibit at the gallery through April and will be the site of cross-community gatherings intended to spark dialogue. Ronit is currently designing a second table that will be used with Arab and Jewish youth in high schools around Haifa, and hopes to work with UMD students to repurpose this idea for the UMD community.

Beginning this spring, Ronit will collaborate with the nonprofit Arts on the Block to transform an underused plot in the immigrant-heavy Carroll Avenue/Quebec Terrace (CAQT) neighborhood of Silver Spring into an engaging community green space. With features that include a rain garden,



play space, benches and lending libraries, the project aims to foster safety, connection and engagement as it continues efforts to educate and empower the CAQT community.

Professor Emeritus **David Fogel** was designated by the Maryland General Assembly as a “2016 Living Landmark” this past fall, for his decades-long work in preserving the City of Annapolis’ cultural heritage through preservation, architecture and civic engagement.

Clinical Professor of Architecture **Amy Gardner** and her firm, Gardner Architects LLC, lit up the awards circuit in 2016, winning two BUILD awards: Best Sustainable Residential Architecture Firm, Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area and Best Contemporary Bethesda Home Renovation: Treehouse. The firm’s project, Canal House, led by project architect (and MAPP Alum and Lecturer) Brittany Williams, won a Merit Award from AIA Potomac Valley, a People’s Choice Award from AIA Maryland, a first place win from NKBA and a Pro-

fessional Builder Silver Award. Gardner Architects was also recognized in the annual “Best of Houzz - Design” and “Best of Houzz - Client Satisfaction for both 2016 and 2017. Amy’s work on The Gabriel Prize in 1992 was just published in a monograph on the past 25 years’ of The Gabriel Prize laureates, published by the Western European Architectural Foundation.

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning awarded the 2016 John Friedmann Book Award to Dr. **Sonia Hirt**, Dean of UMD’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, for her book, *Zoned in the USA: The Origins and Implications of American Land-Use Regulation*. The award recognizes work that best exemplifies scholarship in the area of planning for sustainable development.

Assistant Professor **Ming Hu** joined MAPP’s architecture program in the fall. She produced two articles, “Intersections—Academia and Industry, Research and Practice,” for AIA Philadelphia and “Value-driven Design Process—A Systematic De-



ABOVE: Professor Garth Rockcastle at thesis reviews with Prakruti Hoskere.



ABOVE: Associate Professor Ronit Eisenbach speaking to students in studio

cision-Making Framework Considering Different Attribute Preferences from Multiple Stakeholders,” for the Journal of Solar Energy Engineering.

Last summer, Professor **Gerrit Knaap**, along with Associate Professor **Casey Dawkins** and Assistant Professor **Willow Lung-Amam**, formed a new partnership with Enterprise Community Partners. With support from Enterprise they are evaluating the efficacy of the HUD-funded regional sustainability planning process in Baltimore. In partnership with NCSG Associate Kim Ross and NCSG research staff, Gerrit finalized the Purple Line Community Development agreement, built the Purple Line Corridor dashboard and began working to implement the agreement. Gerrit worked with NCSG researcher Sevgi Erdogan to obtain support for another year for the PRESTO project from the Socio-Environmental Synthesis lab. He also gave several presentations at conferences this year, including: the Transportation Research Board Conference on Use of Scenario Planning in Transportation Planning in Portland, Or.; The Cato institute, Washington, D.C.; The Center for Chesapeake Communities, Annapolis, Md.; Baltimore Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship, Bowie, Md.; and the National Brick Institute conference, Smart Growth and Transit Oriented Development A Policy, Design and Planning Perspective, at the National Building Museum.

In addition to bringing his smartly designed window planter, *Livi*, from conceptualization to market this year (see story caption to the right), Assistant Professor **Hooman Koliji** contributed a chapter to the new book, *Confabulations: Storytelling in Architecture* (Routledge). He offered two lectures in the fall, “Drawing Otherscape: Between Idea and Thing” at University of Veritas, Costa Rica, and “Between Idea and Thing? Landscape Representation and Modes of Design Thinking” at University of California, Davis’ Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design program in the Department Human Ecology. Hooman also served as an Abstract Reviewer for the UIA 2017 World Architects Congress, in Seoul, Korea, and was recently elected to the Edito-



ABOVE: Assistant Professor Jana VanderGoot discussing a thesis review

rial Board of the Nexus Network Journal: Architecture and Mathematics for 2017.

In January, Hooman's work was featured as part of an exhibition at the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union, entitled *Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art*. He was one of seven scholars featured.

Professor **Don Linebaugh** released his latest book, *The Saratoga Campaign: Uncovering an Embattled Landscape* (University Press of New England) last May. Co-edited with colleague William Griswold, *The Saratoga Campaign* uncovers new details of what many historians call the turning point in the Revolutionary War, with the help of new technology and archaeological techniques. Don appeared on the Albany, N.Y., NBC-affiliate station in September to discuss the book. He is currently working on another book based on his extensive research of the craftsman style country house known as Indian Steps in southern Pennsylvania. Don recently moved his campus archaeology lab from the Anacostia Building to the Toll Physics Building, where he will continue work on several major archaeological projects. Personally this past year, Don biked over 575 miles and continued work on his historic farm, painting the house, erecting a new fence and enthusiastically shoveling manure (a useful skill for academic life!).



Bringing the Outdoors Anywhere: Introducing "Livi"

For years, Associate Professor Hooman Koliji has been part of a growing movement examining the integration of the built environment and nature, breaking architecture and horticulture out of their respective molds as a means to re-think how we create environments. During his study of domestic middle-eastern architecture and urban settlements, he saw the substantial role that productive landscape—herbs, fruit trees and other edible or medicinal plants—played as a functional element in the urban fabric. This past year, Hooman and his partners of the San Francisco-based firm, Creodes, conceptualized his idea of "Horti-tecture" on a very personal scale, with a product aptly named, Livi. Livi is a portable, pod-like container garden that holds a single plant on its back and sticks to any vertical surface, from a kitchen wall to the back of a laptop. Livi allows you to grow plants—from succulents to food—almost anywhere. Leaning heavily on design thinking, Hooman's research and a very successful Kickstarter campaign, the team's kernel of an idea grew into a fully-produced marketable product in just two years; With the finished product

in hand, Creodes began filling orders this month. Livi has been featured in a number of publications, including *Business Insider*, *Inhabitat* and *Mental Floss*; the team has also been courted by the T.V. show, *Shark Tank*.

Hooman sees Livi as the first step in a broader effort to incorporate vertical gardens and "green curtains" for use in sustainable urban farming, for eco-aesthetics and to promote human interaction with nature. "I learned immensely from this process," said Hooman. "The world of design is infinite and the fact that a designer can think about 'product design' and put that product in the broader context of environment, built-environment and user experience is the bigger lesson here."

MAPP Welcomes

Ariel Bierbaum

In January of 2017 Ariel Bierbaum joined the Urban and Community Planning Program as an Assistant Professor. Ariel recently completed her Ph.D in City and Regional Planning at University of California Berkeley, where her research concentration explored major social, political and economic issues related to the mass public school closures, sales and building reuse in Philadelphia. Her research interests include urban policy, racial inequality and public education. She earned her B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Community Planning at MIT. In addition to teaching at UC Berkeley, Ariel was an Adjunct Faculty member in the Architecture and Community Design Program at the University of San Francisco and a Visiting Scholar in the Urban Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. Ariel has worked for over 15 years in the fields of community art, community development, and public policy.

Professor **Margaret McFarland** taught short courses on real estate development at Nanjing University School of Business in Nanjing, China, for 60 MBA students in early October. In November, she headed east to spearhead an intense, three-day real estate development module for an executive education program at The American University in Cairo, located in New Cairo, Egypt. Margaret and her staff launched the first annual Colvin Case Study Challenge this fall, attracting 18 teams from real estate programs across the country.

Associate Professor **Madlen Simon** led an ARCH 406 studio in the spring of 2016 that designed a new cafe for UMD's Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, making food and drink part of the performance experience (read more about this project in the "School News" section of this newsletter). She collaborated with alumni Betsy Nolen (B.S. Architecture '13, M.ARCH '15) and Rebecca Hattour (M.C.P./M.ARCH '16) to present a paper, "Architecture without Vision," and a poster, "Architecture of Happiness," at the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture Conference at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Ca., in spring 2016. She co-authored a paper with Ph.D. candidate Maria Beltran entitled, "The People's Park: a study of the relationship between design and conviviality," which they presented at the 10th EAAE-ARCC Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, last summer. Mady also presented her paper, "Future Studio: Preparing Students for Practice in the Global Context," at the same conference.



Preserving the Heritage of Ancient Cultures

One of the biggest crises facing areas of the world plagued by war, culture clashes and political strife is the erasure of culture heritage. For more than a decade, this critical study of the erosion of cultural heritage and, more broadly, the process of change over time, have been Assistant Professor Michele Lamprakos' research

interest. "Memento Mauri: The Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba," a new essay by Lamprakos, joins a collection of essays by prominent scholars of Middle Eastern art and architectural history, published this winter by Aggregate Architectural History Collaborative. *The Destruction of Cultural Heritage: From Napoléon to ISIS* explores the destruction of monuments and the

wider impact of that destruction on our "psyches, cultures, philosophies, and historiographies." Lamprakos traces the changing form and meaning of Cordoba's famous mosque-cathedral over the centuries and links them to shifting attitudes toward the Islamic past and present.

ARCH 406 Design Studio

A whimsical café design developed by students from Associate Professor of Architecture Madlen Simon's graduate-level design studio, ARCH 406, will inspire The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center's new Applause Café. Working within the confines of the existing structure, students put furniture design on center stage to unify the space and create a sense of permanence. Students from the course are refining designs before going into furniture production using digital fabrication tools.



Alumni NEWS

Midé O. Akinsade, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP (*M.ARCH, Urban Design Certificate, '04; B.S. Architecture '96*), on behalf of his firm HOK (Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum), is designing and working on completing The Health Sciences Facility III building on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). The state-of-the-art science and technology lab building (pictured) is a collaborative hub for three different colleges at UMB, namely: The School of Medicine; The School of Dentistry and The School of Pharmacy, all anchored by a newly designed outdoor public plaza. The building (440,000 GSF) consists mostly of wet labs and dry computational research labs. There is an animal research facility, imaging and Nanomedicine suites, as well as collective small-and large-scale collaboration spaces. The building opens this fall.



Jennie (Gross) Black (*Historic Preservation Certificate '12, M.ARCH '13*) was invited to present her thesis on Biophilia and the Adaptive Reuse of Glenn Dale Hospital at the International Psychology of Architecture Conference at the

building under construction in Red Bank, New Jersey; and a 4-story 88,000 sq. ft. building in Stamford, Connecticut. He



ABOVE: Brewer's Alley Renovation and Addition by Bates Architects' Rochelle (Heyworth) Cusimano.



ABOVE: Wave Modular Shelving by Justin Donnelly.



Longtime friends **Forrest Popkin** (*B.S. Architecture '08*) and Brian Gaylor followed their individual passions at UMD—Forrest, pursuing a career in architecture and Brian in information systems—the two reunited over their mutual love of beer. Black Flag Brewing Company, which Brian opened last year, was the creative vision of Forrest, who served as project designer for his firm, Bates Architects. Working with Brian and buoyed by the support of firm principal **Marty Bates, AIA** (*B.ARCH '79*), Forrest's design of intentional site lines offers patrons an unparalleled perspective of the brewing process as the salvaged barn wood and lighting transform the warehouse feel into a warm and inviting space.

University of Texas at Austin last December. Jennie joined HKS Architects Washington, D.C. office in February.

The firm of alumnus **Marty Bates, AIA** (*B.ARCH '79*), Bates Architects in Frederick, MD, completed three restaurant projects in the last year. **Rochelle (Heyworth) Cusimano** (*B.S. Architecture '11, M.ARCH '14*) was involved from design through construction on the Brewer's Alley Renovation and Addition in Frederick. **Forrest Popkin** (*B.S. Architecture '08*), who also works with Marty, was involved from design through construction on the Gunther & Co. Restaurant, in Brewers Hill, Baltimore and the Black Flag Brewing Company in Columbia, Md.

Justin Donnelly's (*M.ARCH '09*) modular shelving was a finalist in Wanted's LaunchPad Competition and an honoree at the NYCxDesign Awards hosted by Interior Design Magazine. Additionally, his design studio was featured in *Wallpaper** magazine in the Creative Catalysts series.

Kiley Wilfong Cullen (*M.ARCH '12*) is now the manager of Whiting Turner's new Virtual Design and Construction Department, which is located at their Greenbelt office. In her new position, Kiley will oversee BIM (building information modeling) efforts, proposals and presentations as well as education and training.

H. Edward Goldberg, AIA, NCARB (*B.ARCH '75*), Principal of HEGRA, INC., in Baltimore, is currently designing several projects on the East Coast, including a 6-story 140,000 sq. ft. building in Largo, Maryland; a 3-story 80,000 sq. ft.

is also starting conceptual design of 7 story 157,000 sq. ft. building on Florida Ave. in Washington, D.C. A restaurant that Ed designed--the Ananda restaurant in Fulton, Maryland—was named by Washingtonian magazine as one of the 100 Best Restaurants for three years in a row.



Brian Grieb (*B.S. Architecture '99, M.ARCH '01*) and **Alick Dearie** (*B.S. Architecture '99, M.ARCH '04*) are entering their sixth year in business and second year since co-founder and Principal Alick Dearie became a full time contributor at Grid Architects. During that time, Grid has worked on a wide range of projects, many of which are award-winning: the firm's residential projects in West Virginia won two AIA design awards; they just completed a new home in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore; and they are designing a home that sits directly on Spa Creek in Annapolis. In addition to commercial projects, Brian and Alick are also working with the Dupont Underground, collaborating on an innovative way to use shipping containers and are developing a prototype house on the Santo Domingo Pueblo in New Mexico.

Alan L. Hansen, FAIA, LEED AP (*B.ARCH '74*), who is Director of Architecture at DBI Architects, Inc. in Reston, Va., is a member of the Loudon County Design Cabinet. Since 2003, the Design Cabinet has promoted high-quality ecological, urban, architectural and landscape design in Loudoun County. Design Cabinet members include engineers, architects, planners and designers who come together in a fusion of creative community problem solving.

Myer Harrell (*B.S. Architecture '02*) will be a panelist at the AIA Conference on Architecture 2017 in Orlando, Florida, this April. Interested in seeing Myer's presentation? He will be part of session is SA312: Learning from Seattle's Living Building Pilot Program, from 4:00-5:00p on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

Joe Harris, AIA (*M.ARCH '04*), a Project Architect for Eric Colbert & Associates recently designed the Logan 13, a high-end condominium in Washington, D.C.'s Mt. Vernon area.

In January, **Randy Heilman** (*M.A. Urban Studies '92*) became the new Township Manager for East Earl Township in Lancaster County, Pa. This is Randy's 27th year in the planning profession; he has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) since 1996.

Jason Hesch (*M.C.P. '12*) recently received a new junior level position in planning for Keith & Schnars in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Alums **Joshua Hill**, AIA LEED AP (*B.S. Architecture '98, M.ARCH '00, Adjunct Professor*) and **Eric Hurtt** AIA, NCARB

(*M.ARCH, Historic Preservation Certificate, '04*) are excited to announce the start of their new architectural design firm in Washington, D.C.—Hill & Hurtt Architects. With over 28 years of combined experience in custom residential and institutional projects, Joshua and Eric are providing tailored solutions to each unique architectural problem by bringing their love of context, detail and urban design to their carefully crafted designs. Visit their website: www.hillandhurtt.com.

Cristina Huidobro (*M.C.P. '13*) recently took a new job at the government of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago as part of the team that is developing and implementing the Resilient Strategy for the city. The team is part of the 100 Resiliente Cities network pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. Cristina says, “it has been a wonderful challenge and a great opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds and institutions in order to develop a common vision for the region.”

Eric Jenkins, AIA (*M.ARCH '89*) was promoted to full professor at The Catholic University of America’s School of Architecture and Planning. He continues to direct the school’s Urban Practice Concentration in their Master of Architecture Program.

Christopher Johansson (*M.C.P. '16*) began a new job on March 1, 2017. He is now the Senior Associate at Transportation Learning Center in Silver Spring, Md. The Transportation Learning Center is a national labor-management 501(c) (3) non-profit partnership that builds programs to strengthen human capital in the public transportation industry, nationally and at the local level.

Matt Jones (*M.C.P. '15*) was recently featured in Terp Online for his efforts connecting the roughly 3,000 UMD alumni in the Boulder area. Matt regularly plans events and activities that draw between 70 to 100 Terps at a time. He is currently working for the City of Boulder as a transportation planner.

David Mayhew, FAIA (*B.ARCH '80*) was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows, class of 2017. David has served as University Architect for Towson University for the past 17 years, where he has overseen the planning, design and delivery of capital improvement projects, including the implementation of a \$1.2 billion expansion program, the addition of 3.4 million square feet of new construction, the renovation of over 500,000 square feet of existing facilities and the expansion and enhancement of campus open space. Through his many accomplishments, he has raised the standard for public architecture at Towson and dramatically improved the living and learning environment through the promotion of integrated planning, design innovation, sustainability and collaboration.



Jo Anne Murray Levenson, AIA, NCARB (*B.ARCH '74*), a seasoned veteran of the architecture industry with over 40 years of experience, was recently promoted to Professional Associate by HDR Architecture. Jo Anne graduated from the University of Maryland in 1974, one of the first women to do so within the UMD School of Architecture. Prior to joining HDR, she was managing principal of her own award-winning design firm for over 25 years. A member of the HDR team for more than eight years, Jo Anne specializes in project management of education, office and science and technology facilities for government and institutional clients.

RIGHT: Rendering of prototype for Lisa Ramsburg's project "Cast & Place"



David M. Miles, AIA, NCARB (*B.ARCH '78*) and his firm, The Drawing Board, Inc., recently concluded a complete face-lift for the exterior of the Taylor Shopping Center in West Annapolis. Most of the tenants are locally-owned stores that have been part of Annapolis for decades. The existing center was built through several additions, which created varying heights and existing conditions. In order to help unify the center, David and his team created a new regular column grid and canopy system. Cedar soffits were used to add some warmth and balance out the brick and steel. Above is their Pallotti High School project.

Lisa K. Ramsburg (*B.S. Architecture '15*), who works at Schlaich, Bergermann and Partner, LP, in New York, was part of a team (with former UMD professor, Powell Draper and a few other architects and engineers) that won this year's City of Dreams design competition in New York City. Their project, *Cast & Place*, is a pavilion made of 300,000 aluminum cans, melted and cast into the cracks of dried clay. It explores a new method of fabrication that is based on natural material processes and transforms waste as a way to confront environmental challenges.

Lucy Moore (*M.ARCH, M.H.P. '14*) and **Marisa Allen** (*B.S. Architecture '10, M.ARCH '12*) were selected for this year's class of the AIA|DC Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program. The program is designed to "train and nurture the next generation of leaders." Lucy and Marissa were selected through a competitive application process that drew on emerging professionals in architecture from throughout the DC Metro Area. They currently work for Quinn Evans Architects.

Karitsa Norman (*M.C.P. '16*) has a new job at Howard County Planning and Zoning in the Community and Compre-

hensive Planning Division. Newly engaged, Karitsa is getting married July 1, 2017!

Matthew Peters (*M.ARCH '05*) has been working for Granum Architecture and Interiors just outside of Philadelphia for close to four years. He lives in Havertown and has two kids (ages 5½ and 3½).

Last year, **Ari David Schnitzer** (*M.C.P. '06*) became a first-time homeowner, purchasing a house with his wife and new dog, Xander, in the Petworth neighborhood of the District of Columbia.

Abby Tesfaye (*M.H.P./M.C.P. '16*) accepted the Community Development Internship position with the City of Hyattsville this past year. She is involved in updating their sustainability plan, specifically through community engagement and outreach initiatives. She is also producing a brochure as a tool to engage the community in current events regarding local economic development. Says Abby, "I am really excited to be working on projects that I had previously experienced as a resident during my time at UMD!"

Gregory Vernon (*M.C.P. '10*) earned his Associate Emergency Manager designation from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Since starting at Ayers Saint Gross in 2013, **Amber Wendland** (*B.S. Architecture '10, M.ARCH, M.C.P '13*) has worked on many planning and architectural projects in both the D.C. and Baltimore offices. Based in the planning studio, her projects include master plans for the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Johns Hopkins Medical Campus; off-campus studies for Washington University in St Louis; a Village Action Plan for Sewanee: The University of the South; the Southwest Neighborhood Plan and DPW Campus Master Plan with the DC Office of Planning; and collections planning and feasibility studies for the Smithsonian. Amber is currently spearheading

a complex neighborhood revitalization project in the heart of East Baltimore, by leveraging resources across the city and empowering community residents to develop a master plan and rehabilitation strategies. She also enjoys teaching and helps lead a design education program between Ayers Saint Gross and Beechfield Elementary School in Baltimore City. She currently lives in Baltimore City, loves the Ravens and enjoys the benefit of Under Armour gym access!

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LEFT: Students joined Adjunct Professor Dennis Pogue and Faculty Research Associate Kirsten Crase for a summer study abroad program at Kiplin Hall and the rolling countryside of North Yorkshire, England.

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HISP 655 students making traditional joints using hand tools as part of a woodworking exercise.





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