

Centerbrook Architects Lecture Series 2012-2016

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Lecture Series 2015-2016



“SS United States, Hallmark of Twentieth Century Design” with Chad Floyd, FAIA

Friday, January 29, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Chad Floyd will tell the story of the great ocean liner SS United States, designed by marine architect Francis Gibbs and interior designer Dorothy Marckwald. He will show how this little-known pair reimagined ocean liners and invented a new *Mid-Century* aesthetic that married function with glamour and changed American design forever.



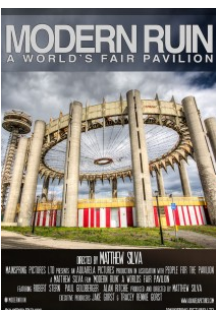
Architect Charlotte Hitchcock presents: “Historic Barns / Modern Farms”

Friday, February 19, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

A survey of historic barns began in 2005 with the goal of finding and documenting barns around the state, which we thought of as endangered relics of a vanished way of life. We discovered that farming in Connecticut is alive and well in this time of local food movements. And historic barns are an integral part of the trend.

The illustrated talk will draw on Charlotte’s experience with Historic Barns of Connecticut, (made possible by support from the State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, and funds from the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut,) a project of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Charlotte will focus on barns that are in use on working farms – dairy and egg farms, grass-fed beef, and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms growing vegetables and fruits.

Charlotte Hitchcock is recently retired from her job with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation after working at the state-wide non-profit preservation organization since 2009. During two years as a volunteer and six years on the staff, she visited most of the 169 towns and many of the smaller village centers in Connecticut in search of barns and other historic places. Charlotte has worked in various roles as an architect, parent, high school teacher, and architectural historian. She has earned degrees in art history, architecture, and mathematics education. She lives in the Westville neighborhood of New Haven, in a 104-year-old Craftsman cottage.



“Modern Ruin” with Matthew Silva

Friday, April 29, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

The New York State Pavilion, once the shining symbol of the 1964/65 New York World’s Fair, now sits in the middle of New York City as a haunting reminder of what became of the age of optimism that was the early 1960’s. This film tells the story of Philip Johnson’s New York State Pavilion during the glory days of the fair, and chronicles its demise over the past 50 years. The film details its post-fair use as a 60’s concert venue and 70’s roller rink, including the years of neglect and recent growing advocacy efforts.

Matthew Silva is a teacher, filmmaker, and co-founder of People For the Pavilion, an organization dedicated to preserving the New York State Pavilion. Since 2012, Matthew has worked by way of art and social media to raise interest and change public perception for what is possible for the Pavilion. With support from a strong social media community and a coalition of various New York-based civic, advocacy, and cultural institutions, he produced the 2015 documentary film *Modern Ruin: A World's Fair Pavilion*.



Norwegian Architect: Reiulf Ramstad, HFAIA

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7 p.m. to be held at Centerbrook Architects 67 Main St. in Centerbrook

We are very proud to present acclaimed architect Reiulf Ramstad at Centerbrook's office on May 17th at 7 pm. Ramstad's firm, Reiulf Ramstad Arkitekter, has earned an international reputation for boldly simple architecture that strongly connects to its Scandinavian context and landscape.

Mr. Ramstad's Oslo-based firm achieved notoriety for its design of the Trollstigen Visitor Centre, in Møre of Romsdal, Norway. Completed in 2012, this facility is one of the earliest and largest structures among the the now-famous Norwegian Tourist Routes. Set in a stunning natural environment, it exemplifies how the deep understanding of a place can lead to innovative modern architecture. The firm has gone on to produce a wide range of pioneering projects that have attracted international accolades, including the Architizer A+Awards Firm of the Year in 2015.

Mr. Ramstad earned professorship from The Oslo School of Architecture and was a regular thesis advisor and juror. Recognized professionally as a board member of the National Association of Norwegian Architects, he has served on juries for domestic and international architectural competitions. In recent years, following awards and publicity of his firm's projects, he has lectured around the world. He will receive an Honorary Fellowship into the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows at the AIA National Convention in Philadelphia this May.

Lecture Series 2014-2015



Architect Chad Floyd, FAIA presents "In Search Of The Particular"

Friday, October 17, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

With the proliferation of national building codes, standardized development patterns, common construction materials, and ubiquitous box stores, cities and landscapes are tending to look the same across the United States.

This trend toward homogenization was boosted after World War II by the proponents of modern architecture and their design ideology, which called for universality. The result has been a standardization of the built environment and a blurring of distinct regional identities. The sustainability movement's emphasis on local construction materials has served as a partial antidote, but Floyd argues more can be done. He explains, as well as shows, how to conjure the particular over the universal in an attempt to regain a vanishing American sense of place.

An award-winning architect, Floyd has designed buildings nationwide for colleges and universities, independent schools, and civic and cultural entities. Signature projects include the Palmer Events Center in Austin, Texas; the Liberty Memorial in Virginia that honors those who lost their lives on 9/11; the Nessel Wing of the Norton Art Center in Florida; an expansion and renovation of the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy Andover in Massachusetts; and the Kriebel Gallery at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme.



Landscape Architect Edward Marshall presents “Cultural Landscapes”

Friday, November 21, 2014 at the Essex Town Hall at 7 p.m.

A Principal at Stephen Stimson Associates of Massachusetts, Marshall will explore innovative projects throughout the United States and Canada and will demonstrate how the design of each site was inspired by the regional environment, such as its geology, vegetation, history, and culture.

At the University of Connecticut, Marshall helped to design the award-winning landscape project outside of two new social science buildings, which are located at the convergence of the Homer Babbidge Library and Fairfield Way, the most active pedestrian corridor on the Storrs campus. The design, which includes a green roof, explores UConn’s agricultural context through a palette of grasses and woody perennials that are found in the surrounding pastures and woodlands. Site elements were conceived through study

and understanding of local materials, plant communities, and regional landscape patterns.

Marshall earned his Master’s Degree in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and has more than twenty years of experience in the field. Prior to joining Stimson, he was the Corporate Landscape Architect for IBM Corporation, working with a design team of Architects and Engineers reviewing IBM projects worldwide. He is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Sustainable Design: Harvesting Floodwaters

Friday, January 16, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Library

Amy Mielke (Ennead Architects) and Caitlin Taylor (Centerbrook Architects), winners of the 2014 Holcim Award North American Gold Medal will present their invention of a water absorptive surface and subterranean basin, called Poreform. Their system is capable of rapid saturation and slow release, and reframes water as a valuable resource rather than a liability.

The Holcim Awards is an international competition that recognizes innovative projects and future-oriented concepts on regional and global levels. A total of \$2 million in prize money is awarded in each three-year cycle. The Gold Medal winners receive \$100,000.

The competition seeks projects that demonstrate an ability to stretch conventional notions about sustainable building and also balance environmental, social and economic performance – while also exemplifying architectural excellence and a high degree of transferability. Their project was featured in January’s issue of Metropolis Magazine as a ‘game changer’ in sustainable design and engineering.



Architect Johanna Hurme from 5468796 Architecture in Winnipeg, Canada

Friday, February 6, 2015 at the Essex Library Association

Johanna Hurme is an architect and a founding partner of Winnipeg based 5468796 architecture. Johanna came to Canada from Finland during the mid 1990’s, graduated with a Masters of Architecture degree from the University of Manitoba and worked for several years in Winnipeg prior to establishing 5468796 Architecture with Sasa Radulovic in 2007. Working around a single table, the practice unites the diverse knowledge and experience of twelve young professionals. 546 believes that there are opportunities for exploration within every budget, and that

every client, user and civic environment deserves an outcome that advances architecture.

In the past six years the firm’s work has achieved national and international recognition – including two Progressive Architecture Awards; two Awards for Emerging Architecture & Future Project Award from from Architectural Review; The Governor General Medal in Architecture; an Award for an Emerging Practice, and two Awards of Excellence from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, to name a few. In 2010 546 was featured in Architectural Record’s Design Vanguard issue and in 2012 546 represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in Architecture. Just this July the firm was selected as recipient of the 2013 Prix de Rome Award in Architecture for Canada.



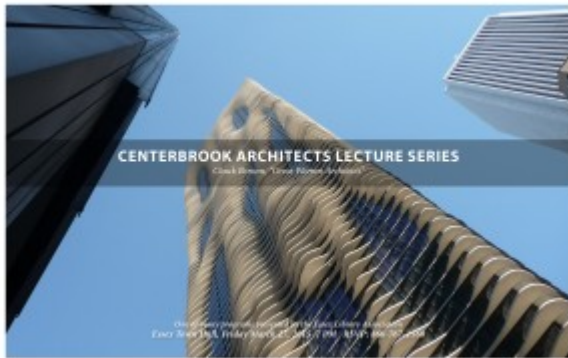
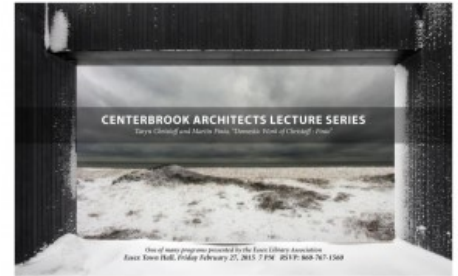
Architects Taryn Christoff and Martin Finio of Christoff : Finio in New York

Friday, February 27, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Library

Taryn Christoff received her undergraduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1984, where she drew her strength and inspiration from the design legacy of Mies van der Rohe. Working with her husband Martin Finio since 1999, Christoff has led design and consultant teams to construct corporate and commercial interiors, institutional projects and new residential projects. Her experience includes retail design for Steven Alan and Calypso, headquarter design for the Heckscher Foundation and Todd Hase, and several residences located in urban and natural environments. She has

been a practicing New York Architect since 1992.

Martin Finio is a 1988 graduate of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at the Cooper Union. A registered New York Architect since 1993, Finio spent nearly a decade at the office of Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. His experience there included the Cranbrook Natatorium, the Neurosciences Institute in La Jolla, and the Hunter Science Center at the Emma Willard School. Since 1999, he has been partnered with his wife Taryn Christoff and taught both design and studio courses at Yale University, where he teaches and tests a design philosophy rooted in the integration of building performance and spatial clarity. He has been recognized by Esquire magazine as “one of America’s most promising young architects.”

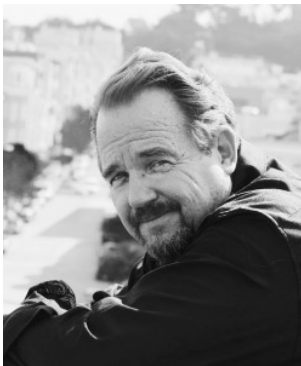


Architectural Historian Professor Chuck Benson presents “Great Women Architects & Designers of the 20th and 21st Centuries”

Friday, March 27, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

We would begin to understand female genius in architecture and design by going back in time to such luminaries as Marion Mahoney Griffin, Mary Colter, Julia Morgan, and Eileen Gray – all of whom are women that practiced architecture and delved into design very seriously in the early decades of the 20th century. From these women mentioned above, we will chronologically explore other mid-century & late century masters such as Gae Aulenti, Billie Tsien, Zaha Hadid, and Jeanne Gang – three of

these last four practicing architecture currently. All these women defied the odds of this largely historically male-dominated profession, and are all noteworthy practitioners on a world-class level of the profession.



Byron Dean Kuth, FAIA and Elizabeth Ranieri, FAIA will present “Curious Scales.”

Friday, April 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Since co-founding Kuth Ranieri Architects, Byron & Elizabeth have been committed to balancing a building practice with research projects to stretch and experiment with design across many scales. They will present works that vary from custom fabrications to visionary infrastructure.

Over two decades their firm has produced a broad spectrum of work, from small-scaled objects and installations to buildings and urban design proposals. They have earned a regional and national reputation for innovative works that integrate current cultural discourse with contemporary issues of design, technology and the environment. Their projects include an installation for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Soundhenge, and the Harvey Milk Memorial Streetcar.

A Fine Arts and Architecture graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Kuth has taught at California College of the Arts, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and as a Friedman Professors at the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley. He launched the Deep Green Design Alliance (DGDA), a multidisciplinary think tank for sustainable

strategies in architecture and urban design.

Ranieri holds degrees in Architecture and Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design and has taught at the California College of the Arts, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and as a Friedman Professor at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design. She has earned a national reputation for innovative expressions of sustainable systems at a building and planning scale. She has led the firm's research and development on infrastructural approaches to water conservation, water treatment, and adaptive strategies to rising seas.



Architect Chad Floyd, FAIA presents: “The General’s House in Madison: a haunted tale of architecture, mayhem, and geopolitics”

Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Murder, slaves, sea stories, presidential politics, tragedy, and triumph: mysteries about the General’s House, a now dilapidated, eighteenth-century house in downtown Madison, abound. Centerbrook partner Chad Floyd will tell the astonishing story of this woebegone structure, once among the finest in Madison, and the colorful people who made it home for the better part of three centuries. Floyd will describe how changes over time to the house paralleled key trends in architecture and how the house gives us an extraordinary window into the country’s social, military, and political history.

Chad Floyd’s design credits include academic, cultural, and civic projects, among them the Palmer Events Center in Austin, Texas; the 9/11 Liberty Memorial in Virginia, and the Norton Museum of Art in Florida. Locally, his work includes the Florence Griswold Museum, the Garde Arts Center, the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, the Norma Terris Theater, Lyme Art association, the Connecticut River Museum, Hill-Stead Museum, Manchester Community College, and Mystic Seaport Museum.



New York City Architect and local gardener Frederick Bland, FAIA presents “The Making of a Garden(er), An Urbanist Architect in the Garden”

Friday, May 8, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Fred Bland, FAIA will highlight the garden he designed for his Stony Creek home. He chronicles his development as both an internationally known architect and a local horticulturalist, and the connection between the two strivings.

A partner in Beyer Blinder Belle and Chairman of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Bland’s design portfolio includes: the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, Minnesota’s St. Paul Union Depot, and the Shanghai Cultural Center in China. His Stony Creek garden was featured in the book “Private Gardens of Connecticut.”

Bland earned his Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in architecture at Yale University, and as a Commissioner on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission he plays an active role in shaping the future of America’s largest metropolis. An adjunct professor in the Art History Department at New York University, he also has served as a visiting lecturer at Columbia University, Yale University, and Pratt Institute.

James Cutler, FAIA, presents “Searching for True”

Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

James Cutler, FAIA, an acclaimed Northwestern architect who founded his own firm and has taught at Harvard and Dartmouth and elsewhere, examines his environmentally attuned design work on Thursday, June 11 at the Essex Town Hall at 7 p.m.



Known for his innovative and sustainable use of wood and other natural materials, his “Seattle style” has been widely admired and imitated. Architectural Record described him this way: “James Cutler, FAIA, is known for superbly wrought wood structures, including buildings on the [Bill] Gates family compound in Medina, Washington ... He is a staunch environmentalist who believes God is in both the details, which he himself meticulously turns out, and the materials.”

Titled “Searching for True,” Cutler’s illustrated presentation will review several projects that attempt to reveal and reflect the tangible set of circumstances in which they are placed.

Cutler’s philosophy is based upon the idea that, in recognizing the natural beauty in a site, owners can be moved to cherish and protect the land themselves. His work has been featured in The New York Times, Smithsonian and the Wall Street Journal, and has been the subject three books. Cutler cofounded the Bainbridge Island Land Trust in 1988.

Established in 1977 and located on Bainbridge Island in Washington, Cutler Anderson Architects (<http://cutler-anderson.com/>) is internationally renowned for its environmental awareness and attention to detail. The firm has designed more than 300 residential, commercial, and cultural projects around the world. It also has designed a myriad of home products in conjunction with its architecture, such as including hardware, furniture and lighting.

PHOTO: Grace Episcopal Church Entry/Baptismal Font, photo credit: Art Grice.

Lecture Series 2013-2014



Director Jake Gorst Presents “Modern Tide”

Friday, October 25, 2013 at 6 p.m. at Centerbrook Architects, 67 Main St., Centerbrook

Essex Library’s Centerbrook Architects Lecture Series opens its sixth year with a screening of the film “Modern Tide” by Emmy-award winning producer and director Jake Gorst. “Modern Tide: Midcentury Architecture on Long Island,” explores the disappearance of its rich architectural heritage. Long Island’s East End, in particular, was once a testing ground for modernist architecture, a place for experimental residential design practiced by the likes of Frank Lloyd Wright, Philip Johnson, and Marcel Breuer. The gradual destruction of this legacy to make way for lavish “McMansions” is characterized by Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Paul Goldberger as a tragedy.

Mr. Gorst, who is a contributing writer to VOX, HOME Miami and Modernism magazines, will introduce the 90-minute film and answer questions afterwards. **View a trailer of Modern Tide.**



Monument to Instrument: Architecture Before and After by Mike Mense, FAIA

Friday, November 15, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Architect, artist, and design proselytizer Michael A. Mense, whose office is in Anchorage, Alaska, will give a pithy and engaging history of architecture. He will describe the changing role of the architect in society and the resulting wariness of the American public. His illustrated talk will touch on his belief that there is a need to redefine both how architecture is practiced and how architects are educated.

Mr. Mense, FAIA, founded mmenseArchitects in 1979 and has designed 1,250 projects in Alaska and the lower 48. He has served as an awards juror for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and currently is a member of the AIA Committee on Design Advisory Group, which he chaired in 2012. Previously, he was a Trustee of the Anchorage Museum Association, Chairman of the Anchorage Urban Design Commission, President of KSKA Public Radio, and

occasional instructor at Anchorage Community College. The Anchorage Museum and the International Gallery of Contemporary Art (Anchorage) have displayed his art.



Norway: Fitting in by Standing Out With Graphic Designer Derek Hayn

Friday, December 6, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Library

What kind of architecture do you build along the most scenic roads in the world? Centerbrook Architects' graphic designer and photographer Derek Hayn visited Norway to find out. His meandering odyssey from Oslo to the remote and picturesque Lofoten Islands (like trekking from Connecticut to Georgia minus the fjords) involved planes, trains, cars, ferries, buses, and feet. His vivid photographs capture the magnificent mingling of the built and natural environments: both the rugged seemingly surreal scenery, as well as the spare inventiveness of modern Norwegian design, albeit steeped in the traditional material, wood, for which the nation's architecture is famous. Rather than intrude on Nature, Norway's observation buildings, rest stops, and tourist outposts set in the hinterlands, almost without exception, seem to be logical extensions, enhancements even, of the landscape.

A wonderful example is the Trollstigen Plateau (Troll's Ladder) by Reiulf Ramstad Arkitekter: perched above a rushing cataract, with mountain peaks behind it. Mr. Hayn doesn't overlook urban architecture, conveying and commenting on the works of acclaimed Oslo firms such as Snøhetta. Mr. Hayn manages the Centerbrook website and blog, and makes his own posters.



Architect Ronnette Riley, FAIA presents "Resilient Design or Designing for Mother Nature's Worst Moments"

Friday, January 31, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Leading New York City architect Ronnette Riley discusses her work in the Far Rockaways of Queens, where the firm that she founded is involved in designing buildings that can better withstand the next Superstorm Sandy. Her illustrated presentation, "Resilient Design or Designing for Mother Nature's Worst Moments," addresses how architecture can adapt to changing conditions and help build structures that can maintain, or regain functionality in the face of stress or disturbance.

Her work and that of her firm, Ronnette Riley Architect, have been featured in numerous publications and won over 60 design awards. Its portfolio encompasses an impressive range of institutional, corporate, hospitality, retail and residential projects. Recently recognized projects include the redesign of 120,000 square feet for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.



Before founding her firm in 1987, Ms. Riley spent eight years in the architectural practice of Philip Johnson and John Burgee. She served as Project Architect for the "Lipstick Building" at 53rd and Third in Manhattan, and was responsible for design through final construction. She is past chair of the American Institute of

Architects Committee on Design and is currently Co-Chair of the New York Chapter of the AIA, Design Awards Committee, and is currently teaching as an adjunct professor at the School of Visual Arts.



"The Art of Creative Engagement in Architecture" presented by Architect Barry Svigals, FAIA

Friday, February 21, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Library

Barry Svigals, whose New Haven firm was recently chosen to design Newtown's new elementary school, will give an illustrated presentation on the art of creative engagement in architecture. His talk will discuss the joys of the collaborative process, focusing on

collaboration as a tool, and he will employ several interactive exercises to identify common pitfalls of group interaction that impede open communication and short circuit creativity.

Svigals coauthored a new book, "Collaboration," and is a proponent of creative thinking and artistic stimulation as a means to achieving breakthrough architecture and human performance. A graduate of the Yale School of Architecture, he studied sculpture at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris.



He founded Svigals + Partners, an architecture and art firm based in New Haven, in 1983. Its portfolio encompasses sculpture, furniture design, and campus planning. Major buildings completed by the firm often feature large-scale sculptural works by Mr. Svigals, including the Carroll School of Management at Boston College and several public schools in New Haven. Among its clients are Yale, Pepsi and Kodak.



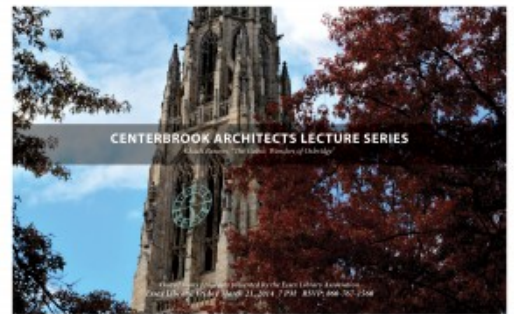
Architectural Historian Chuck Benson presents "The Gothic Wonders of England and America"

Friday, March 21, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Library

Architectural Historian Chuck Benson explores the Gothic treasures of Great Britain's Cambridge and Oxford Universities, and their influence on celebrated American college campuses. Large swaths of the Yale campus in New Haven, for example, are designed in what is called, alternately, Collegiate, Neo or Faux Gothic, a style that was popular well into the 20th Century.

Dr. Benson has been teaching Art and Architectural History for more than twenty five years at various universities and has led groups to explore iconic places and buildings in America, Italy, England, France, Germany, Greece, Turkey, and elsewhere.

His lecture credits include MOMA, Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. He studied the history of art and architecture at Yale, and holds advanced degrees from Columbia University. He also has studied at Cambridge and Oxford.



Dr. Benson currently serves as the Director of Colorado Operations, and Head of Design for a group that specializes in the architecture and engineering of Satellite Operations Centers and Mission Control Stations. He currently teaches as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and has taught at the Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

Photo credit: Patrick Franzis



Architect Robert Miller, FAIA presents "Bohlin Cywinski Jackson: Humane Modernism"

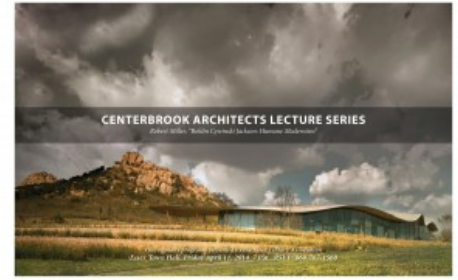
Friday, April 11, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

International architect Robert Miller explores his and his firm's design practice, examining a range of innovative and sustainable buildings. This illustrated presentation focuses on such signature projects as the Ballard Library in Seattle and Vanke Visitor Center in China.

Miller, a Principal in the highly acclaimed firm, calls himself a "Romantic Modernist" whose holistic approach to architecture has been influenced by lifelong interests that encompass social issues, alternative construction, renewable energy, and industrial design. He also discusses his design of furniture and hardware utilizing the principles of Modernism.

“In my work I try to balance often contrasting aspects, such as the reaction of nature against artificiality, of simplicity versus elaborate display, sentiment and reason,” Miller said.

Known for its collaborative approach to architecture, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson has been named Firm of the Year by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Miller, who is a member of the AIA's College of Fellows, has won 65 design awards and patented a number of inventions.



Architect Robert Fox, AIA presents “Skyscrapers and Beyond”

Friday, May 2, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Bob Fox, who has designed more than 30 skyscrapers including the highly sustainable Bank of America Tower at One Bryant Park, will present “Skyscrapers and Beyond,” an illustrated review of his work and current explorations, on Friday, May 2nd, 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall.

Cofounder and one of two partners in COOKFOX Architects in New York City, Bob Fox is known for his passion for environmentally responsible design. He is one of the founders of Terrapin Bright Green, an environmental consulting firm, and served as an advisor to former Mayor Michael Bloomberg with the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. He also has contributed to numerous civic initiatives, for example, as member of the Interface Dream Green Team, Chair of the GSA Green Team, and as an Advisory Board member of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard University.



In addition to designing the Bank of America Tower, the firm has won awards for the Henry Miller's Theatre, a neighborhood development in the South Street Seaport, and a visitors' center at the Angkor Hospital for Children in Cambodia. The Condé Nast Building/4 Times Square building, designed by Bob's previous firm, Fox & Fowle, won a 2001 National Honor Award for Design, the highest award given by the American Institute of Architects.

Centerbrook Architects Lecture Series 2012 – 2013



Landscape Designer Louis Raymond with “More Colorful Than Ever; Clashing & Coordinating in the Garden of a Lifetime.”

Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

A great garden is like a great life: Both are a collage of broad exuberance, attention to detail, occasional bravery, more-than-occasional naps, and plenty of experiments. Both balance a respect for tradition with regular and even gleeful assaults on that same tradition. Creating a colorful garden, then, is like living a colorful life. When does colorful veer into juvenile? Serenity slide into boredom? Inspired juxtaposition careen into eye-

crossing jumble?

More Colorful Than Ever chronicles thirty-years-and-counting of garden designer Louis Raymond's exploration of color in his life and his garden. Does blue really go with red? Apricot with pink? Parchment with white? And what plants best bring which colors to the garden, and when most needed? In every possible sense, it's a colorful talk.

Raymond has been gardening for over 50 years, ever since, as a pre-schooler, he “borrowed” a number of geraniums from public gardens across the street from the family home. While he has always had a fondness for plants and gardening, Raymond took the scenic route to his current vocation. By the time he was 25, he had already earned baccalaureate degrees in chemistry, piano, and voice – and still found time for a couple of years of medical

school along the way – before launching successful careers as an opera singer and a freelance writer. By 30, he had retired from both to take up the trowel fulltime. For more information on Louis Raymond, visit Louis' website: <http://www.rgardening.com/>.



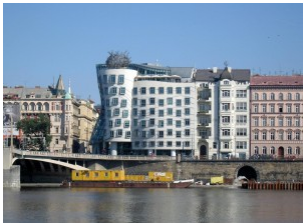
Professor Stephen Schreiber, FAIA presents “Engaged Design”

Friday, December 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Stephen is the Director of the new Architecture+Design Program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The program is an interdisciplinary, collaborative program that embraces spirited, socially progressive, and environmentally responsive design. He is a graduate of Old Saybrook High School, Dartmouth College (BA) and Harvard University (M.Arch) and the story hours at the Essex Library.

His talk, ‘Engaged Design’, will provide a window into the future of architecture and those who will be shaping our cities and towns. As in all professions, teachers of young architects endeavor to give their students the tools they need to flourish in their careers. As such, educators are in the front line of interpreting and predicting the future in order to train their students. Stephen will talk about the approaches that are being used to teach young architects how to contribute more effectively to communities now and in the

coming years. **Read more about the unique Architecture+Design Program at UMass|Amherst.**



John Morris Dixon, FAIA presents “The Building Next Door: How Architecture Relates to its Context.”

January 11, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Every building is necessarily related to its surroundings, whether natural or constructed. But the pioneers of Modern architecture rarely gave much thought to neighboring buildings, because their ultimate goal was to replace them all. Around the 1960s, architects began to

realize that the context of their works was going to stay around a while. Their designs increasingly took into account the scale, proportions, and materials of nearby structures, as well as established patterns of physical development. In some cases the pendulum swung too far, and “contextualism” was understood as a making new construction look just like its neighbors. Thoughtful contrast can be as effective a response to context as conformity. This talk will deal with revealing examples of architecture in context from around the world and right here in Connecticut.



An MIT graduate, John Morris Dixon began his career as an architectural journalist in 1960. He served as chief editor of Progressive Architecture 1972-96, helping achieve the magazine's worldwide influence. The breadth of his knowledge and insight has made John Dixon a much-valued observer on numerous design juries and selection panels. In recent years, he has written for such publications as Architectural Record, Architectural Research Quarterly, Architecture, Competitions, Domus, Harvard Design Magazine, House & Garden, Officeinsight, and Places. Books he has written include The World Bank: Kohn Pedersen Fox and the Architecture of a Landmark Building. A grant from the Graham Foundation supports his current project, a book tracing the course of modern architecture from 1950 to the present.



Architect Bill Chilton, FAIA, RIBA presents “Designing Relationships”

Friday, March 15, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

As Principal of Pickard Chilton, an architectural practice in New Haven, Bill has directed projects for leading corporate and institutional clients worldwide including the Eaton Headquarters in Cleveland; the ExxonMobil Office Complex in Houston; CalPERS Headquarters in Sacramento as well as projects in the Middle East and Asia. Based on the belief that the practice of architecture is a collaborative art, he will address how the relationships the firm cultivates with clients, consultants and construction professionals is translated into the design of its buildings.

William Chilton has directed projects for leading corporate and institutional clients worldwide including the world headquarters for Eaton Corporation (LEED Gold) in Cleveland, Ohio; Devon Energy World Headquarters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 900 New York Avenue (LEED Gold) in Washington D.C.; ExxonMobil Office Complex in Houston, Texas; the US Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (LEED Gold) near Washington D.C.; AIM Corporate Headquarters in Houston, Texas; and CalPERS Headquarters Complex (LEED Gold) in Sacramento, California.



Prior to the founding of Pickard Chilton, he was Ellerbe Becket's President of Architecture and collaborated on such notable buildings as the Science Museum of Minnesota and Kingdom Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which, when completed, was the tallest mixed-use complex in Europe and the Middle East.

William Chilton received his Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Iowa State University and Master of Architecture from the University of Minnesota. Iowa State University recognized him with its Design Achievement Award (1995) for distinguished contributions to the arts and the Christian Petersen Design Award (2007), the highest award given by the College of Design. In conjunction with Jon Pickard, he is co-recipient of the 2011 Iowa State University Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor given to alumni by the University. He is actively involved in teaching, serving in Spring 2010 as Professor in Practice at the University of Minnesota College of Design.



Dr. Chuck Benson presents "Hewn Architecture From Living Stone"

Friday, March 29, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Dr. Benson has been teaching Art and Architectural History for more than twenty five years at various universities and colleges across the United States, and has led groups to explore and visit a variety of sites to Italy, England, Scotland, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Greece and Turkey. He also has led art and architecture trips to New York City, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles.

His lecture credits include the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, MOMA, the Whitney Museum, the Getty in Los Angeles, the Art Institute in Chicago, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. He studied the history of art and architecture at Yale as an undergraduate, and holds advanced degrees from Columbia University. He also has studied at Cambridge and Oxford, as well as the University of Goettingen in Germany.

Dr. Benson currently serves as the Director of Colorado Operations, and Head of Design for a Group that specializes in the architecture and engineering of Satellite Operations Centers and Mission Control Stations. He currently teaches as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and has taught at the Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Our Essex Library audiences have enjoyed his lectures on Edward Lutyens, Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Antonio Gaudi.



Jake Gorst presents "The Architecture of Andrew Geller"

Friday, April 12, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

Jake Gorst is an Emmy® award winning producer and director. Of his documentary film, "Leisurama" (2005), New York Times writer Alastair Gordon said, "Jake Gorst's documentary film...is a compelling look at American culture in the 1950s and 1960. While the filmmaker has chosen to focus on an amusing marketing concept in affordable housing, he goes out of his way to explain the broader cultural implications of the Cold War and US-style capitalism. Leisurama is a refreshing look at an important era without the usual clichés."

Recent film productions include the Emmy award-winning documentary "Farmboy" (2006), currently in national PBS broadcast distribution, "The Rise and Fall of Books", "Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler", and associate production on "Andrew Geller: A Spatial Encounter". Jake Gorst is a contributing writer to

VOX, HOME Miami and Modernism magazines.

View the Modern Tide trailer at <https://vimeo.com/37028699>

Andrew Geller (1924–2011) designed hundreds of innovative and influential modern structures during an important era of 20th century creativity and expressionism. His association with industrial designer Raymond Loewy led to significant contributions to historic structures such as New York's famed Lever House and The World Trade Center. His freelance vacation home architecture reflected a lighthearted playfulness and a mastery of the balance between fantasy and everyday reality. The Wall Street Journal architecture editorialist Alastair Gordon described Geller as the "architect of happiness" in 2011. (Photo of Jake Gorst by Stephanie Chernikowski).



Robert Orr, FAIA presents "Do Cities Really Want Economic Development?"

Friday, May 3, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall

In the rapidly-decaying landscape of our urban and small town centers, where vacancy and stagnation dominate, the rhetoric coming from municipal leaders about economic regeneration seems to be mostly talk and no action. Why? Some suggest that the problem is over-regulation. Could reversing statutory barriers that seemingly guarantee blight, and replacing them with positive incentives aimed at creating real neighborhoods, regenerate these ghost-town downtowns into bustling mixed-use, mixed-income places to live, work, learn and play?

This thought-provoking topic will be the subject of a talk for the Essex Library by architect Robert Orr, FAIA, LEED®, a part of the continuing Centerbrook Architects Lecture series. Robert Orr, FAIA, is an award-winning architect and planner present at the first sip of coffee that became the grounds for the New Urbanism in the mid-1970s. His collaboration with Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk at Seaside, Florida in 1982 was honored by **Time Magazine** as "...the most astonishing design achievement of its era and one might hope the most influential." Robert furnished more than 6,000 hours of mostly pro-bono services to storm-ravaged Gulf Coast Mississippi and New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. A Founder of the Seaside Institute, a think-tank on community design and development, Robert also serves on Boards of many other vision-based organizations in Florida, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhodes Island, Washington, Vermont, Maine and Connecticut.



Architect Louis Pounders, FAIA, presents "A View from the American Academy in Rome: the Tiber and the City"

Friday, May 31, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Essex Town Hall

Louis Pounders traveled to Rome in the spring of 2012 where he was a Visiting Artist in Architecture at The American Academy in Rome — the oldest American overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. His talk will focus on the Academy's history and mission, and his research on the Tiber River and its effect on urban development in Rome, with ideas on how river cities in the U.S. can best develop their urban planning.



Louis R. Pounders, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, received a BA from Rhodes College in 1968, and then attended the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he received the Master of Architecture degree. He worked for I. M. Pei & Partners in New York City and Boston. In 1972, he returned to Memphis to join the architectural firm of Gassner Nathan & Browne where he became a Partner in 1980. In 1993, he joined an old friend to create Williamson Pounders Architects (WPA). In 2006, WPA joined forces with ANF Architects in Memphis.