Expanding the Definition of Practice

SESSION #7

By Ashley Grzywa, AIA, WELL AP | Bonstra | Haresign ARCHITECTS & Javier Maymi, AIA | Shalom Baranes Associates

April 5, 2019

@ SmithGroup

1700 New York Ave NW #100, Washington, DC 20006

Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program 2018-2019
Expanding the Definition of Practice

PROGRAM SUMMARY:
This session explores ways in which the architecture profession is evolving through research and collaboration with non-traditional design and construction professions. Sketching techniques will be introduced as tools for creative problem solving and communication between team members. Speakers will share experiences integrating research, education, public art, poetry and mindfulness into architectural practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Describe strategies for conducting and integrating research into architectural practice to inform design, improve environmental building performance and enhance occupant safety and well-being.
2. Implement sketching techniques to quickly develop and test creative solutions to complex design problems and communicate innovative design ideas.
3. Employ multi-disciplinary research, analysis, modeling and simulation to develop sustainable and innovative materials, processes, products and building designs.
4. Integrate sustainability, safety and health into building design and urban planning through collaborative client programming, urban ecology and agriculture, public art interventions and community engagement in design.

PROGRAM ABSTRACT:
The session begins with an investigation of how research is being used in architectural practice to advance the conceptualization and eventual creation of the built environment. Scholars will understand how a prominent firm uses cutting edge research in their practice. The research has covered diverse fields which have provide insight into improving building systems performance.

Afterwards, scholars will learn how they can develop more innovative thinking with the stroke of the pen or pencil. The sketching workshop will explore the ways architectural sketching can be used to effectively generate and express solutions to the new challenges facing architectural practice.

The session will conclude with a discussion of different ways architects have expanded architectural education and practice through multidisciplinary collaborations and integration of non-architectural design techniques. Speakers will share personal experiences working in non-traditional ways with non-A&E team members to improve project outcomes for clients and stakeholders.
II. Agenda

Expanding the Definition of Practice

**Date:** 05 April 2019  
**Location:** SmithGroup, 1700 New York Ave NW #100, Washington, DC 20006  
**Time:** 12:00 pm – 5:30pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 12:00 – 12:30 | Lunch Reception/Introduction  
What is the definition of practice? What could it be? |
| 12:30 – 2:00 | Presentation #1: Research Informing Architectural Practice  
by Jason Smith |
| 2:00 – 2:05 | Break |
| 2:05 – 3:30 | Presentation #2: Just Do-odle It  
*Unleashing Innovation and Creativity through Sketching*  
by Eric Jenkins |
| 3:30 – 3:35 | Break |
| 3:35 – 5:15 | Presentation #3: Living Your Definition of Practice (panel)  
moderated by Ashley Grzywa and Javier Maymi |
| 5:15 – 5:25 | Closing Discussion: What is Your Definition of Practice?  
by Ashley Grzywa and Javier Maymi |
| 5:25 – 5:30 | Conclusion & Housekeeping  
Ashley Grzywa, Javier Maymi & the CKLDP Executive Committee |
| 5:30 – 6:30 | Happy Hour @ Blackfinn Ameripub  
1620 I St NW, Washington, DC 20006 |

Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program 2018-2019
Presentation #1:
Research Informing Architectural Practice
KieranTimberlake unites the diverse fields of architecture, environmental management, chemical physics, materials science, and more to develop architecture, materials, products and processes. Jason Smith will discuss the underpinnings of research at KieranTimberlake and how that has broadened the firm’s vision of the relationship between process, craft, and form.

Jason Smith, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Jason Smith is a partner at KieranTimberlake, an award-winning architecture firm recognized for its environmental ethos, research expertise, and innovative design. Jason has completed a broad range of projects from private homes to large-scale campus plans. He is currently working on projects in Toronto, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara. He recently completed a private home in Pound Ridge, New York, the Engineering Research Center at Brown University, and the San Joaquin Dining Commons at the University of California Santa Barbara. His projects have won numerous design awards and are published internationally.

Presentation #2:
Just Do-odle It - Unleashing Innovation and Creativity through Sketching
Recent research in the neurosciences and other fields reveals that doodling can help people stay focused, grasp new concepts and retain and recall more information. So, rather than inhibit, doodling (and being comfortable with “ugly drawings”) helps improve on creative thoughts and ideas.

Eric J. Jenkins, R.A.
Eric Jenkins is a professor at Catholic University’s School of Architecture and Planning. Among other courses, he teaches theory seminars, design studios and thesis, freehand sketching and research methodologies. Additionally, he has directed several foreign and domestic programs. Eric’s research and writing has focused on design thinking at multiple scales and through varied media with special focus on analytical sketching. He is the author of the two books: To Scale: One Hundred Urban Plans (Routledge, 2008) and Drawn to Design: Analyzing Architecture through Freehand Drawing (Birkhauser, 2013).

He is the recipient of several teaching and design awards including The Catholic University James E. Doman Memorial Undergraduate Educator of the Year award (2006) and the 2014 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Creative Expression. Additionally, he designs beer labels for Right Proper Brewing in Washington, DC. As a licensed architect, Eric served three terms as an At-Large member of the AIA’s District of Columbia chapter board of directors. He is a design consultant with Studio 27 Architecture where he has worked on several award-winning projects.

Eric earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master of Architecture from the University of Maryland and a Masters in Design Studies from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.
Presentation #3:  
Living Your Definition of Practice  
Expanding the definition of practice means taking risks and working outside the box. Panelists discuss personal experiences developing unique models of architectural practice and share advice on how scholars can start shaping the practice they want for their firms and themselves.

Raj Barr, FAIA, FRIBA, IIDA, USGBC  
1997 National President of the American Institute of Architects, Raj earned architecture degrees from the Universities of Ceylon, London, and Kansas, and his Doctorate in Sustainable Design from the University of Hawaii.

Project experience includes Eco Maya Homes in Mexico, the Altos Eco Development in Panama, Cortlandt Medical Center in New York, Hilton, Hyatt Regency and Kimpton Hotels, and numerous Restaurants and Embassies in Washington DC.

A pioneer of the Sustainability movement, he is the author of three books on the subject, and has taught at Catholic, Howard, Florida, Princeton, Yale, Bale State, and London. Keynote speaker at International Professional symposia including the Oxford Roundtable on Climate Change, he has provided Expert Congressional Testimony and serves as an expert witness.

President of Barr-Kumar Architects Engineers PC, he serves as a professor of Architecture and Urban Sustainability at UDC.

Bill Hutchins, AIA  
After following the standard architect’s path - kinda, having worked in 13 offices during his internship (which wasn’t very formal back then) around the US - life began to feel empty. A divorce provided a catalyst to dive into the abyss, and his 2 year old daughter became his guru. Through the rhythm of reflective solitude, and child’s play, another way to think about Home grew - Bill saw how his inner sense of Home was mirrored by his physical home (a humble bungalow with a central hearth, for inner and outer fires).

27 years later, in 2018, after writing to understand what was being birthed, and working with clients as an architectural midwife, Bill published Dwelling, A Poetic Exploration of Home. There are no photos of buildings in the book, but it’s all about space - the space within our heart, which expands into another’s heart, forming relationship. That union is love; love is the space that unites us.
Presentation #3:
Living Your Definition of Practice
-continued

**Hiroshi Jacobs, AIA, LEED AP**
Hiroshi Jacobs, Associate Principal at Studios Architecture, is an award-winning architect and artist with 15+ years of experience working on creative projects of many types and scales. He is a firm believer that good design can be a transformative agent in improving the human experience. As the founder of HiJAC, a trans-disciplinary art & research practice, Hiroshi has completed a number of large scale interactive art installations in the Washington DC region and beyond.

Hiroshi holds a Master in Design Studies degree from Harvard University, where he was the recipient of the Daniel L Schodek Award for Technology and Sustainability, as well as Bachelor and Master of Architecture degrees from Tulane University. He is a registered architect in the District of Columbia and has held adjunct faculty positions at Tulane University, The Catholic University of America, and at the University of Maryland. He is a recipient of the 2014 National AIA Associates Award and the 2012 AIA DC Emerging Architect Award.

**Andrea Swiatocha, AIA, LEED AP**
Andrea Swiatocha, AIA, LEED AP is a Manager for DC Public Schools Facilities team. Andrea oversees the design for all DCPS School Modernizations in the District of Columbia that are managed through a collaboration between the Department of General Services and DCPS. Part of her role includes leading the program development, educational specifications, community engagement and design approval of the building. Prior to working at DCPS, Andrea spent 10 years as a practicing architect designing both public and private educational facilities. Andrea is an advocate for design excellence in student learning environments. As a former member of the AIA Design and Health Leadership Group (DHLG) and the AIA|DC Design + Wellbeing Committee, Andrea is committed to improving human health through the design of the built environment. Andrea graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Miami University and a Master of Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.
Resources
Tools, Advice and Inspiration from our Presenters

Jason Smith, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
QUOTE
“When I’m working on a problem, I never think about beauty. But when I’m finished, if the solution is not beautiful I know it’s wrong.” R. Buckminster Fuller

BOOK
Eric J. Cesal: Down Detour Road: An Architect in Search of Practice
Kieran Timberlake: Refabricating Architecture

YOUTUBE SERIES
How to Architect by Doug Patt

OPEN SOURCE DESIGN TOOL
Design Explorer

Eric J. Jenkins, R.A.
QUOTES
“Yes, and...” Improv rule of thumb

“Planning to write is not writing. Outlining, researching, talking to people about what you’re doing, none of that is writing. Writing is writing. “ - E. L. Doctorow
(substitute “writing” with whatever action you prefer... e.g. designing, drawing, running...)

BOOKS
Howard Gardner: Five Minds of the Future
Tina Fey: Bossy Pants
Roland Barthes: Mythologies
Wendy Lesser: You Say to Brick: The Life of Louis Kahn
Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner: Communities of Practice
Eric Jenkins: Drawn to Design

ARTICLES
Jill Larkin & Herbert Simon: “Why a Diagram is (sometimes) Worth 10,000 words”
Vinod Goel: “Ill-Structured Representations for Ill-Structured Problems”

MOVIES:
Defending your Life (1991)
Executive Suite (1954)

ADVICE
Seek out and associate with people who will help nurture your life and career—engage with those who will inspire you, not deflate you, help you grow, give you honest and helpful critiques of your work, reciprocate with positive energy and share in a journey together.

Work hard and enjoy it (if you love what you do then it’s not work). Not everything is always fun or rewarding or easy all the time, but the majority of it should be. You should want to get up and go to work. If not, work hard at what you love. The money will follow.
Resources
Tools, Advice and Inspiration from our Presenters
-continued

Raj Barr, FAIA, FRIBA, IIDA, USGBC
BOOKS
Thomas Friedman: Thank you for being Late
Thomas Friedman: Hot, Flat and Crowded

DOCUMENTARY

Bill Hutchins, AIA
QUOTES
“To be rich is not to want.”
“Consciousness precedes being.”

READING
Poetry of Rumi, Rilke, and David Whyte.
Rainer Maria Rilke: Letters to a Young Poet
Bill Hutchins: Dwelling

Hiroshi Jacobs, AIA, LEED AP
READING
Essay by William Mitchell: “Me++ Boundaries/Network”

QUOTE
“[Art] is not charity, which is the giving of things. It is more than kindness, which is the giving of self. It is both the taking and giving of beauty.” - Ansel Adams

ADMIRED ARTIST
Robert Irwin

Andrea Swiatocha, AIA, LEED AP
BOOK
Simon Sinek: Leaders Eat Last

RESOURCES
Association for Learning Environments (A4LE)
AIA Knowledge Communities - 21 ways to make an impact
IV. Resources

Resources
Tools, Advice and Inspiration from our Presenters
-continued

Ashley Grzywa + Javier Maymi
QUOTES
“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.”
  - George Bernard Shaw
“It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.” - Walt Disney
“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes.”
  - Marcel Proust
“Life is not what one lived, but rather what one remembers, and how it is remembered to
tell the tale.” - Gabriel Garcia Marquez

TED TALKS
Marc Kushner: Why buildings of the future will be shaped by...you (2014)
Patty McCord: 8 lessons on building a company people enjoy working for (2019)
Amy Cuddy: Your body language may shape who you are (2012)
Ole Scheeren: Why great architecture should tell a story (2015)

BOOKS
Marc Kushner: The Future of Architecture in 100 Buildings
Alain de Botton: The Architecture of Happiness
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Thank you to SmithGroup for the hospitality in hosting today’s session.

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Acknowledgements

We would also like to thank all of our presenters for volunteering their time and offering their expertise in support of our session. Thank you for your time, your wisdom and your example of leadership in expanding the definition of practice.