

## **Letters from the Chair**

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### **Dear Alumni and Friends of the Department of Architecture:**

We are pleased to report some very good news. Two of the faculty members in the Department of Architecture, Professor Steven Badanes and Associates Professor Sergio Palleroni have received very significant recognition this spring.

### **Professor Badanes Recognized as ACSA Distinguished Professor**

In February we were notified that Professor Steven Paul Badanes would receive the "Distinguished Professor Award" from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). This is a very selective recognition-there are about 110 schools of architecture in the United States and Canada with over 2000 faculty; each year only three to six are named as "ACSA Distinguished Professors." (Among the UW Department of Architecture faculty, only Professor Sharon Sutton has previously received the award; she received it as a faculty member at the University of Michigan, before coming to UW.) Professor Badanes is receiving the award for his contributions to architecture through his design/build practice (Jersey Devil) and to architectural education through his design/build studio activities. The ACSA press release announcing the award stated, in part, "As a design/build professional and founder of the partnership Jersey Devil, Professor Badanes established a new level of design quality in design/build practice and brought recognition to this alternative to a conventional architectural career. The recognition that Jersey Devil has received is reflected in the publication of two books about its work, *The Jersey Devil Design/Build Book* and *Devil's Workshop: 25 Years of Jersey Devil Architecture*. But, his contributions go beyond those of practice to leadership in the academy. At the University of Washington, he has led multiple design/build studios that address community-based projects. Such studios have offered students the experience of taking projects from design through construction, presenting them with alternatives, and providing a strong ethical basis in the provision of service to communities in need." Professor Badanes received his award at the ACSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans in early April.

### **Professor Palleroni Wins Munro Public Service Teaching Award**

In late March we were notified that Associate Professor Sergio Palleroni would receive the S. Sterling Munro Public Service Teaching Award. This is a single award given annually by the University of Washington "to a faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in community-based instruction, including service learning, public service internships, and community partnership projects." The award is named for S. Sterling Munro, former top aide to the late Henry M. Jackson and administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, who had a long record of public service to Washington State. The Munro Award is considered one of

the two highest teaching awards given in the University of Washington. Nominations are received from departments all across the UW. Professor Palleroni is being recognized for his leadership of community-based instruction and service in the design/build programs of the Department and College. He has developed several innovative programs, including the Design/Build.Mexico Program (in which Professor Steve Badanes also participates) and the Strawbale Housing Initiative, and he has also responded to the need for migrant worker housing in eastern Washington. Under Professor Palleroni's leadership, the Mexico and strawbale programs have included students from many UW disciplines, including the Evans School, Medical School, Forest Resources and others, creating a truly interdisciplinary endeavor. Professor Palleroni's approach is unique in that it combines the technical issues involved in designing and building housing and community facilities with an approach that emphasizes cross-cultural learning and experience. Professor Palleroni received the Munro Award at the UW recognition ceremony in June; he was also recognized at the UW graduation ceremony in June.

## **Recent Faculty Promotions**

While the awards to Professors Badanes and Palleroni headline the achievements of faculty in the Department of Architecture, other faculty are also making significant progress in their careers. We were very pleased this spring when three members of the department faculty were promoted. Associate Professor Brian Johnson was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure; Professor Mark Gross was promoted to Professor; and Associate Professor Gail Dubrow, who holds a joint appointment in the Department of Architecture, was also promoted to Professor. The reviews of these candidates are one measure of our progress as a Department-as part of the promotion or promotion and tenure process, each candidate receives confidential independent reviews from leading scholars outside of the University of Washington. These reviews all noted the exceptional achievements of these faculty and some described these individuals as among the national or international leaders in their specific fields.

## **Addressing Our Missions of Service and Outreach**

I usually highlight the full breadth of faculty and student achievements in these letters, but the awards to Professors Palleroni and Badanes suggest that this letter should focus on the Department's participation in the service and outreach missions of the university. Although Professors Palleroni and Badanes are receiving their awards for past achievements, they are continuing to provide leadership in this area, as are other members of the faculty. In winter quarter 2002, the site for our international design/build program was Auroville, India. Led by Professors Palleroni and Badanes, as well as Professor Chuck Henry from UW Forest Resources and Jim Adamson, Professor Badanes's partner in Jersey Devil, 38 UW students went to southern India to design and build an American Studies Center, a facility to house American university students studying in India. The project included a dormitory for sixteen students, kitchen and meeting spaces. The building is made of rammed earth

in combination with ferro-cement and a large aluminum "wing" roof that serves to provide a canopy over the site. The project focused on the integration of sustainable building practices, addressing both inputs (water, energy) and outputs (waste, energy) of the building through integration of composting systems, gray water and biodigesters to deal with waste, solar energy cells to provide electricity, and a massive water catchment system to collect rainwater for use during the yearly dry season. The project can be viewed at: <http://courses.washington.edu/uwbasic>.

In Spring Quarter 2002 Professor Badanes is leading the Howard S. Wright design/build studio in Seattle in the construction of phase two of the project begun in Spring 2001 at the T.T. Minor Elementary School in Seattle's Central District. In spring 2001, architecture and construction management students designed and built a garden and playground facilities. This year the fifteen students in the studio (eight graduate and seven undergraduate students) are building the "Children's Stages"-an outdoor performance space. In addition, two Landscape Architecture students are doing an independent study installing irrigation and plantings in last year's project as well as building composting bins from recycled plastic lumber. The T.T. Minor studio is receiving funding from a King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant secured by the Sloan Foundation.

And, in Summer 2002, Professor Palleroni and Associate Professor David Riley (formerly at UW, now at Penn State) will again lead a strawbale design/build studio (the fourth in the American Indian Strawbale Housing Initiative). The studio may involve as many as 60 students, 30 from UW and 30 from Penn State (and may include 10 alumni from each school as well). They will build three public buildings (a literacy center, a study hall for high school students, and a community center, all using the strawbale technology) on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations in southeast Montana. The principal funders are the National Science Foundation, Oprah Winfrey and Bayer pharmaceuticals. The strawbale studio will again be carried out in collaboration with the non-profit Redfeather development group (based in Bellevue), our partner in these projects the last few years. Evening Magazine and Oprah Winfrey (who recently recognized the project an "angel" award) may be on site for the last few days of the project in late July and may feature the project on network TV later in the year.

## **2002 Design Charrette: Colman School**

The commitment of the Department and College to the service and outreach missions of the UW is also exemplified by this year's annual Design Charrette, again coordinated by Professor Sharon Sutton. Held the first week of Spring Quarter 2002, this Charrette focused on the neighborhood surrounding old Colman School in Seattle's historically African American Central District. The charrette was sponsored by the UW Center for Environment, Education, and Design Studies (CEEDS) in partnership with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and Madrona Elementary School. The Urban League has agreed to purchase the Colman School, which has been the subject of controversy since it was closed and slated for demolition in 1979, and hopes to redevelop it as self-sustaining mixed-use building, to include an African

American Museum, multi-income apartments, and commercial space. The eight team leaders of the four charrette teams included a balance of academics and practitioners from the local and national design communities: Professor Michael Pyatok and Tom Eanes, both of Pyatok Associates in Seattle, and Associate Professor LaVerne Wells Bowie of Florida A & M in Tallahassee led the Thurgood Marshall and Sojourner Truth Design Team; Lecturer Philip Klinkon, of Klinkon Architects in Seattle, and Elizabeth Kennedy of EKLA in New York City led the Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Blanche S. Lavizzo Design Team; Assistant Professor Jeff Hou and Samuel E. Cameron of Mel Streeter Associates in Seattle led the William Grose and Sarah Grose Design Team; and Lecturer Catherine Barrett and Joe Addo of Addo Studio in Los Angeles led the Jacob Lawrence and Jimi Hendrix Design Team. These teams included 54 graduate and undergraduate students drawn from across the College of Architecture & Urban Planning. Together they focused on strengthening the connections of this imposing Jacobean style structure to its surrounding context, while also exploring ways that museum activities might extend out into the neighborhood to form a kind of "living museum," or cultural center. Their work was intended to broaden the community's understanding of its architectural and cultural resources, facilitate fundraising for the museum, and help organize champions for future implementation of the project.

## **New Challenges**

Along with our many positive achievements, the Department faces very significant new challenges. As I reported in my October 2001 letter, the Department received high praise during the "10-year review" that took place in 2000-01; the 10-year review committee's May 2001 report called the Department "highly successful" and "stronger than it was ten years ago." But, that report also warned that reductions in the Department's budget since the 1980s threatened to undermine these achievements, particularly due to reductions in faculty numbers in key areas.

As soon as the 10-year review process ended, the Department of Architecture began the process for re-accreditation of the professional Master of Architecture degree. (Our last re-accreditation took place in 1996-97.) In August 2001 we submitted the required Architectural Program Report (APR) to the National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. (NAAB). An NAAB Visit Team came to review the Department 23-27 February 2002. Materials for all 130 courses offered by the Department (assembled under the direction of Associate Professor Elaine LaTourelle, Senior Lecturer Doug Zuberbuhler, and staff member Rodger Webster) were reviewed by the Team. A display of student design work covering all design studio levels and thesis (as required by NAAB), filled Gould Court as well as several spaces in Architecture Hall (coordinated by Senior Lecturer Doug Zuberbuhler and graduate student Paula Patterson). The Visit Team included representatives of AIA, NCARB, ACSA, and AIAS, plus Seattle architect Bruce Donnally AIA, who participated for the full four-day visit as the local representative on the Team. We also thank the Professionals Advisory Council and AIA Seattle for their assistance during the NAAB Visit.

In their report, the NAAB Team complimented multiple aspects of the Master of Architecture program including the quality of the students, the breadth of course

offerings and options, international offerings, design/build and furniture studios, emerging design computing capabilities, interdisciplinary linkages within the College and the strong support received from the Seattle and Puget Sound professional community. However, due to the national economic recession, the Team expressed concern about the possibility of budget reductions and their possible impact on the program.

The concerns expressed by the NAAB Visiting Team regarding the UW budget are shared by faculty across the Department, College and University. As is widely known, the State of Washington economy has seen recent declines in information technology and computing, aerospace, and tourism. The state budget approved in March 2002 allows the University to increase tuition to address reductions in state support, and this will mean that future students will pay a greater share of the cost of their education. The University of Washington architecture programs remain affordable, especially relative to many programs in private institutions, but increasing costs, beginning next fall, will be a challenge for some students and their families.

## **Stepping Down as Chair**

As I close this letter, there is one other change to report. On 6 March 2002 I announced that I will step down as Chair of the Department of Architecture this summer. (Next year I will be on sabbatical, but will return to full-time teaching in Fall 2003.) My reasons for deciding to step down at this time are personal. I am now in my sixth year of service as Department Chair, having previously served eight years as lecture series coordinator for the College. Since I became Chair in 1996, I have undergone an operation for cancer, and I lost both my parents and my only sister.

The last six years have been years of accomplishment for the Department. Our faculty are highly productive. Our students are articulate and engaged. Our staff are truly dedicated and supportive. We have built good relationships with our community of professional stakeholders. In addition to normal day-to-day administration, several new departmental initiatives have moved forward during this period (as described in my previous letters). In all of these efforts, the Department has depended on the full participation of the faculty and staff. The Chair of the Department does nothing alone—given the complexity of the "chair role," I have depended especially on the Department Executive Committee. I have been especially fortunate to have the support of Graduate Program Coordinator Doug Zuberbuhler, Undergraduate Program Coordinators Barry Onouye and Elaine LaTourelle, and Graduate Advisors Galen Minah, Peter Cohan and Kathryn Merlino. I have also received advice and support on specific issues from Professors Sharon Sutton, Jerry Finrow, Mark Gross, Trina Deines and others. During this period numerous faculty committees and task forces have provided support by addressing a wide variety of departmental issues. And, of course, our Department could not run without the contributions of our staff with whom I have worked closely every day: Caroline Orr, Melinda Johns, Kim Sawada, Ciara Hanley and Rodger Webster; we also depend on Penny Maulden in the Shop, and Eugene Sherman is handling implementation of

computing in the design studios in Architecture Hall. The Department has also received strong support from two Deans, Jerry Finrow and Bob Mugerauer. And, the Department and I also benefited from an increasing level of professional support-our relationships with the Professionals Council and with AIA Seattle have contributed significantly to our success. To all these individuals and to all of you who have given support in so many ways, I owe a debt of gratitude I can never really repay.

Finally, thanks to all of you, the alumni and friends of the Department, for your support over the last six years. I hope you will continue to provide support through the last few months of my serving as Chair, and will continue to give similar support to the new Chair in years ahead.

Best wishes and thanks, Jeffrey Karl Ochsner FAIA Professor and Chair

P.S. At the University of Washington the Deans of the various schools and colleges select the Chairs of the departments. In April, Dean Mugerauer created a nominating committee (including representatives of the faculty, staff and professional community) to assist in the selection process. In May and June 2002, the committee led a search for nominees, from among the current faculty, then reported their findings to the Dean. On June 13, 2002, Dean Mugerauer announced that Associate Professor Vikramaditya Prakash, Ph.D., will become the new Chair of the Department of Architecture. After a short period of transition, he will assume the position of Chair in mid-July 2002.