

**April 2011**

## CELEBRATION OF SPRING WINE TASTING

and

## ART EXHIBIT

April 14, 2011

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Clarke Showroom

64 South Main Street

South Norwalk

\$29.00/person

## SPONSORED BY CLARKE

Mix and mingle at this fun, social event while you sample specially selected wines. Learn about the wines' perceived flavors, aromas and general characteristics.

Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres while browsing through artwork by AIA Connecticut members in a special exhibit including oils, watercolors, ink drawings, sculpture and photography.

Register online at [www.aiact.org](http://www.aiact.org)



### DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

Use your smart phone to scan this QR Code and be linked to the AIA Connecticut website! Navigate the site to register for programs, order documents and check the calendar to take note of upcoming programs.

QR codes are popping up on printed material everywhere. They are a quick way to connect your business to

### Calendar of Events

*April 2011*

#### Travelling Exhibit

Wells-Turner Memorial Library  
Glastonbury

#### April 1

2011 Alice Washburn Awards  
Entry deadline

#### April 13

*The Secretary of the Interior Standards for  
Historic Residential Construction and Tax  
Credits*

Small Firms Roundtable  
AIA Connecticut, 4 pm.

#### April 14

*Celebration of Spring Wine Tasting and  
Art Exhibit*

Clarke

64 South Main Street

South Norwalk, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

#### April 20

*Building Design & Construction Systems,  
Part II—Materials & Technology, ARE  
Review*

With Richard Connell, AIA  
AIA Connecticut, 5:30 pm.

#### April 21

Presentation and Reception, *Architecture  
as Environment: a Retrospective of the  
Work of Kevin Roche*

Sponsored by Assa Abloy

Yale School of Architecture, 5:30 to 7:30

#### April 26

2011 Alice Washburn Awards: submission  
deadline

#### April 27

*EIFS Exterior Building Solutions* with  
Mark Pacelli, Energex Wall Systems

Small Firms Roundtable  
AIA Connecticut, 4 pm.

#### April 28

*2011 Update*, with Dan Palmer, Director of  
East Coast Editorial Operations for  
McGraw Hill

Small Firms Roundtable

AIA Connecticut, 8:30 to 10:30 am.

#### April 29

2011 Alice Washburn Jury

## Member News

**Bruce Becker, AIA** of Becker and Becker Associates in Fairfield was recognized by *Business New Haven* as “2011 Business Person of the Year” for his firm’s mixed-use project, 360 State Street, in New Haven. 360 State Street, which occupies the site of the former Shartenberg Department Store, has revitalized the upper Chapel Street area. This platinum LEED certified building has 500 apartments, a fitness center, screening room, a roof terrace with a heated pool, parking and ground-floor retail including a forthcoming 24,000 square-foot food cooperative. Congratulations, Bruce!

**McKee Patterson, AIA** of Austin Patterson Disston of Southport recently completed the first residential turbine structure in New Canaan. Patterson states, “We chose turbines specifically engineered for residential use. They are small and powered by low wind velocity. Now that they are up and running, everyone on the site comments on how silent and graceful they are. The wind in New Canaan is inconsistent and storage on site is not effective, so all generated energy will be sent back to the grid. The turbines start to generate energy at 8 m.p.h.

The structure references classic windmills found throughout Connecticut and there was in fact a windmill on this property in its former life as a farm. The building is functional providing a bathroom for the nearby pool and barn and a stair to the top; it also houses the mechanical units needed for the turbines. The design of the turbines is artistic, so that the structure presents itself as a large, exuberant sculpture. “

## SAVE THE DATE: July 21, 2011

AIA Connecticut is pleased to announce a half day program especially designed for its members. We have arranged for presentations by representatives from several federal agencies that will outline opportunities for architects to do business here and abroad.

Presentations will be followed by breakout groups with the agency that members feel would offer information most appropriate for their firms. We have commitments from the General Services Administration (GSA), and the District Director and Senior International Trade Specialist from the US Department of Commerce, Connecticut office. We have also invited representatives from the Small Business Administration and the Army Corp of Engineers. Do not miss this program which is offering something for every sized firm and will offer a direct benefit to firms. We urge you to send decision makers to this program!



**AIA CONNECTICUT INVITES YOU TO A DAY OF GOLF**

**Friday, May 20, 2011**  
**The Golf Club at Oxford Greens**  
**99 Country Club Drive**  
**Oxford, Connecticut**  
*Rated # 3 course in Connecticut by Golf Week's Best Courses You Can Play*

### CONTESTS AND PRIZES

**GRAND HOLE IN ONE PRIZE**  
**2011 Mini Cooper Countryman**

**Second Hole in One**

Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel & Golf Club in Hawaii - Golf Package

**Third Hole in One**

Mandalay Bay Casino & Resort in Las Vegas - Golf Package

**Fourth Hole in One**

PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, FL — Golf Package

7:30 am

Registration, Breakfast, Putting Green, Driving Range

8:30 am

Shotgun Start

1:30 pm

Awards Reception

**\$190.00/ player**

Includes cart, breakfast, lunch, beverage cart refreshments and awards reception.

[www.aiact.org](http://www.aiact.org) to register online



## The Architect's Cookbook



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## “Ground Zero Mosque” Is Student Design Catalyst

By Daniel Davis, AIA, Professor of Architecture, University of Hartford

*AIA Connecticut recognizes that the following article addresses a topic about which some people may have strong opinions. Nevertheless, as it was an interesting student project, we thought that it might be of interest to the membership.*

As an accredited program, we at the University of Hartford's Department of Architecture are required to demonstrate that each graduate possesses the knowledge and skills defined by the criteria established by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). One of these criteria is “Historical Traditions and Global Studies.” Typically, we address this criterion in the second year graduate studio with a Muslim community center project, which includes a mosque. Considering the recent discussion surrounding the so-called “Mosque at Ground Zero,” we decided to offer the project using the same lower Manhattan site, known as “Park51,” which is two blocks northeast of the Twin Towers site. We felt that this unique educational opportunity would require the students to appreciate that architecture must reflect not only program, client, and budget, but also the political and social issues it can evoke.

The dozen students were of different faiths, including Islamic. Since most of them had had little exposure to the Muslim faith and people, a great deal of research was needed. We visited a mosque at the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford in Berlin, Connecticut, for a tour of the facility and a prayer service. The students learned not only that Allah is the same God worshiped by Jews, Christians, but also that the Muslim

Prayer Hall, purposely bare and with perhaps different proportions, still resembles somewhat the prayer spaces of other faiths. They felt comfortable within the facility and welcomed by the people we met.

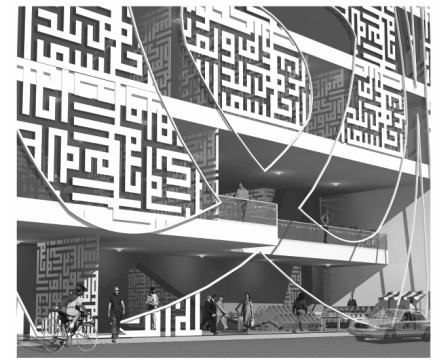
At the Hartford Seminary's Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations we received an informative presentation from Dr. Yahya Michot, himself an Islamic scholar and a Muslim. He discussed many mosque structures, from ancient to new; we noted that he presented only structures he had visited. Our discussion considered the challenges and the opportunities of the project. Dr. Michot expressed his belief that it should not be built, as the wounds of 9/11 are still open.

The students researched and analyzed mosque architecture; community centers; sustainability; historical/political context; the location of other religious structures (prior to 9/11, at least two mosques existed near the World Trade Center); planning/zoning requirements; site views; street elevations; climatic influences; prevailing winds; sun studies; site access; and local public transportation. They also built physical and digital models of the site and the surrounding neighborhood.

At the end of the semester, the students exhibited their projects, which were later that day reviewed by a diverse group of jurors. The projects were varied in design, each with its own merits. All were sensitive to the issues, controversy, and discussion that came with this assignment. The students approached the project as a community center with a prayer hall, or as an Islamic study center, not solely as a house of worship. Some had placed the prayer space in open view (an attempt to remove any secrecy and to show that Muslims pray just as others do). After the reviews the

jurors shared their thoughts; one of the most interesting comments came from Dr. Michot, who had originally been opposed to the actual project. The student presentations, he said, had “changed his mind” about the project, and he now thought it should be built if designed appropriately.

Our project revealed that architecture can successfully deal with politically and emotionally sensitive issues, that architecture can serve as a forum for discussion of such topics, and can help architecture students grow and mature as architectural designers.



Entrance Level of Building  
Caption: Detail of entrance for mosque design project by University of Hartford graduate architecture student Andrew McKeen.

### Publishing Opportunity

Do you design homes for people living with disabilities? Boston architect Deb Pierce, AIA is working with Taunton Press on a book about accessible homes - for people with physical, visual, auditory, and cognitive limitations. The book will celebrate good design with compelling case studies, engaging details, and inspiring concepts, where accessibility is seamlessly integrated or exuberantly expressed.

If you have projects you would be willing to have included in this book., please respond with a short narrative about the project and a few photos. Credits and further conversations to follow if your projects are included in the book. Further details available by contacting Deb directly at, [deb@piercelambarchitects.com](mailto:deb@piercelambarchitects.com), or by phone at 617-964-1311.

*AIA Connecticut welcomes your member news and articles for submission. Please submit all entries to Louise Weaver at [lweaver@aiaact.org](mailto:lweaver@aiaact.org). Contact us at 203-865-2195 if you have any questions.*



**Save the Date: May 25, 2011 - Energy Code Compliance Program**



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