



ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT: RAMSAY FAIRBURN

Why did you become an architect?

After deciding pre-med was not for me, I majored in Anthropology. However, after graduating with a BA, I knew this was not a field that I wanted to work in. After several years of doing random jobs, I went back to school to see if studying architecture would be an appealing career; it seemed like a profession that is a good mix of math/ precision, graphics/ art, and people oriented.

Where did you study architecture and what was the most important thing you learned there?

I received my MArch from the University of Maryland in College Park. The most important thing I learned was two-fold: You can receive a great education without going to an Ivy league institution, and practicality in architecture is not to be ignored or considered too pragmatic.

What's your favorite thing about being an architect?

Solving problems, resolving issues and designing buildings in new and different ways each time you start a project. Every client, every program, every project team presents new and interesting ideas, issues, etc.

How long have you worked for David M. Schwarz Architects?

Just over 20 years. [Ramsay celebrated her 20th anniversary with the firm on July 16th, receiving a special gift from David at a small office celebration to commemorate the wonderful occasion.]

What projects have you worked on at the firm? What are you working on now?

Bass Hall; American Airlines Arena; Severance Hall; Chapman Cultural Center; The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, and quite a few in between. I am now working with Vanderbilt University on a new Residential College.

What distinguishes you in the firm?

I am currently the only woman Associate. It goes without saying that I am quite outspoken; I believe it is important to be candid and frank.

How would your colleagues describe you?

Well organized and direct.

What was your favorite firm project?

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas

What are your "must have" office supplies?

Scale and felt-tip colored markers (green or blue are my preference, but I use a lot of red!).

What's your "go-to" office lunch?

True Italian on a hard roll from the deli downstairs...quick and easy.

What's your favorite building of all time and why?

Empire State Building: it has beautifully detailed interior and wonderful views of New York City from its Observation Deck



DMSAS HOLDS ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY



On Saturday, August 8th, we held our annual Summer Party at David Schwarz's house in Marshall, VA. This year's theme was 'Crab Feast' and the weather could not have been more perfect for an outdoor event. The day featured our staff, families and friends enjoying a full day of swimming, games, laughs and bushels upon bushels of freshly steamed Maryland Blue Crabs. After gorging on crabs, we had a few surprises for the staff. One of which was a pool full of beach balls that created an impromptu game of pool

dodgeball. But, the most notable surprise was most certainly the Dunk Tank. Principals, Directors and Associates alike sat the plank as co-workers took turns trying to hit the plunger and drop them into ice-cold water. No word on who the preferred dunking target was.

LOMAN HOSTS RENDERING WORKSHOP

PROJECT UPDATES



13 | U Breaks Ground

Demolition was completed in late June to clear the site for the new mixed-use apartment building, [13|U](#). The 138-unit development is sited directly across 13th street from the U Street/Cardoza Metro station. The demolition revealed the bottom portion of [a beautiful, decades-old mural](#) which had

On July 1st, Associate Jeffrey Loman led a lunch & learn style workshop for the entire office on the art of hand rendering. The session focused on sketching, color-pencil and watercolor techniques for rendering buildings, atmospheric elements and material texture (wood, metal and stone finishes). A series of follow-up, small-group sessions have been held and planned since, allowing for even more hands-on instruction and skill development. Jeffrey is a classically trained architect, a graduate of Ecole d'Architecture de Bordeaux and a recipient of the Grand Prix de Rome. Jeffrey penned an excellent discussion on the [value of hand rendering techniques for contemporary architects](#) for Parchment last year.



been partially blocked by the one-story retail that formerly occupied the site. A groundbreaking ceremony which included Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser as well as representatives from our client, the JBG Companies was held to celebrate the construction kick-off. Construction is expected to be completed by early 2017.



HOSS TOURS QUARRY FOR VANDERBILT RC



Principal Gregory Hoss toured the Rocky Ridge Quarry in Crossville, TN - 100 miles east of Nashville - on August 5th to examine stone selection samples for use on the western half of the Residential College we are designing for Vanderbilt University. Specifically, Gregory visited to look at the quarry's Tennessee Quartzite, also known as Crab Orchard. The Crab Orchard will be used to accent the brick and stone facade on the portion of the building which will face Alumni lawn.

New Mixed-Use in Ballston
DMSAS is currently working on the design of a mixed-use project at 750 N. Glebe Rd, comprising 435 residential units above 67,000 SF of grocery-anchored, street-level retail. The nearly full-block site is located within a five-minute walk of the Ballston Metro station. The building is designed to provide a transition in the scale between Ballston's high-rise commercial core and the adjacent low-scale, residential neighborhood.

CRAIG WILLIAMS TO ATTEND STONE ACADEMY ALUMNI EVENT

One year after graduating from the course, Principal Craig Williams will be attending the [Marmomacc Natural Stone Academy](#) Alumni Program in Verona, Italy, October 1-6. The event was organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Marmomacc International Stone Fair at [Veronafiere](#) and is being sponsored by Veronafiere, Confindustria Mamomacchine, the Italian Trade Agency and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. The program brings design professionals, quarries, manufacturers and fabricators from across the natural stone industry together for networking, facility tours and educational sessions. Check out Craig's recap of his first trip to Verona from 2014 on [Parchment](#).



10TH ANNUAL GINGERTOWN IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER



This year will mark the 10th Annual [Gingertown](#) and we couldn't be more excited. Our team has already started planning for the 2015 builds. Architects, engineers and construction firms from DC, Nashville, Dallas and Atlanta will be working to create confectionery-cities based on a beach town-themed plan.

Drawing inspiration from classic, picturesque precedents like Cape May, NJ the DMSAS elves have already begun to craft the master plan. Stay tuned for more details and a save-the-date announcement early this fall!

Gaillard Tunes for Debut
As the renovation of the [Gaillard Center](#) in Charleston, SC nears completion, a major step towards that goal was taken on August 6th. A Hard Hat Concert hosted nearly a full room of invited guests as the project's acoustician, Akustiks, worked to refine the hall's tuning while the Charleston Symphony Orchestra performed. Among those in attendance were, pictured above from left to right, DMSAS Associates Steve Knight & Jon Toonkel, along with Principal Craig Williams. The hall is scheduled to host a

ESPN TO KICKOFF COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON AT SUNDANCE SQUARE PLAZA





[ESPN will kickoff its coverage](#) of the College Football season from the DMSAS-designed Sundance Square Plaza in Fort-Worth Texas on September 5th. A short 15-mile drive from AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, Sundance Square Plaza has become a favorite satellite broadcast location for the sports network while covering big events in the area. ESPN also broadcasted live from the Square leading up to the inaugural College Football National Championship earlier this year and in advance of the 2014 Final Four.

LATEST FROM PARCHMENT

In addition to Jeffrey Loman's piece on hand rendering from last year, we encourage you to check more recent posts on Parchment, the DMSAS blog. You'll find Q&As with two of our Summer Travel Fellows; [Maggie Hoslinger](#) and [Valerie Sherry](#), our staff's [favorite vacation destinations](#), and a discussion by Ramsay Fairburn on the [revitalization of Portland, Maine](#). Finally, from earlier this Spring, you can indulge your inner-geek with an ode to the [Architecture of Star Wars](#), in honor of May the 4th (Be With You). As always, feel free to reach out to us with a story idea or if you are interested in collaborating on a piece.

FAMILY NEWS

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM

Taksit Dhanagom joined us on June 1st after graduating from the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture with his Master of Architecture. While at Notre Dame, where he concentrated in Traditional and Classical Architecture, Taksit's thesis focused on preserving the heritage and tradition of Thai architecture in an ever increasingly westernized Thailand. Outside of the office, Taksit competes in Silver Level International Ballroom - he hopes to begin competing in Gold Level soon!

Elena Roth came aboard just two weeks later on June 14th. Elena completed her undergraduate studies and Trinity College where she received a BA in Art History with a minor in Architectural Studies and Studio Art. Prior to joining the firm, Elena graduated from the University of Miami her Master of Architecture. While a proud fourth generation Washingtonian happy to be back in her home town, Elena is a travel-fanatic. She hopes to take her next trip to either Argentina or Japan.

Derek Marks started at DMSAS on July 13th. Derek is graduate of the Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning, where he earned a Bachelors in Urban Planning, focusing on urban design and historic preservation. His capstone project designed a master plan and urban design scheme for the redevelopment of a Kentucky riverside town. Derek has a strong interest in the performing arts and has spent much time in community outreach leadership positions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Opera.

Elizabeth Kelley came on board on June 8th. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame's School of Architecture (Masters of Architecture), Elizabeth's thesis, done in collaboration with fellow DMSAS employee Julian Murphy, was a counterproposal for the

dedication ceremony on October 9th, with the first public concert (featuring Yo Yo Ma) to be hold on October 18th.



NoMa Mixed-Use Project Underway

Work is underway on a large mixed-use development in the NoMa neighborhood of Washington, DC. Part of a team effort, our scope of work includes exterior design for two of the three buildings in the complex – one containing loft office space, the other residential units. The development is oriented around an internal pedestrian plaza and features ample ground-level retail. The office building is designed to evoke the feel of the area's industrial roots, while the residential building (illustrated above) recalls the era of glazed terra cotta buildings in Washington, DC, offering a counter point to much of the new construction in the surrounding neighborhood.



High Praise for Spartanburg Hotel

Renderings for the new [AC Hotel Spartanburg](#) were unveiled on June 15th at a press event in Spartanburg, SC. The event was hosted by our client, OTO Development, and featured a presentation by David Schwarz about the hotel's design, its amenities and how it will fit [within the](#)



[Humboldt Forum in Berlin Germany](#). While unarguably talented in many things, Elizabeth oddly enough lacks the ability to whistle, snap her fingers or blow a bubble gum bubble.

Julian Murphy started with us as a Notre Dame Travel Fellow in the summer of 2012 before coming onboard full time in June of 2013. After a year with DMSAS, he took a brief sojourn in Connecticut, ultimately making his triumphant return on June 8th of this year. Also a UND alum with a Master of Architecture, his thesis project done in collaboration with Elizabeth Kelley, as noted above, was published in the latest volume of *The Classicist*, which you can check out [here](#).

Jeffrey Loman Becomes a Grandfather!



Associate Jeffrey Loman's son Gregory and his wife Caitlyn, welcomed their first child, Jackson Beauregard Loman, into the world. Appropriately, the healthy baby boy who has already attained his French citizenship (both Jeffrey and Gregory have dual citizenship) was born on July 14th, [Bastille Day](#).

Dean Reineking Weds

On July 11th, Architectural Designer Dean Reineking was married his girlfriend of two years, Bridget Nugent. The two held their reception at the bride's parents home in Massapequa, NY. The story of how the two helped the family recover from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy is detailed in this heart warming [article from the New York Times](#).

Mark Elliot Gets Engaged

On June 21st, Architectural Designer Mark Elliot proposed to his girlfriend, Kelly Heagy, as the two sat on a hill overlooking her family's orchard in eastern Pennsylvania. The couple met while playing together in their church's orchestra (he the trumpet, her the french horn). Our sincerest congratulations to Mark and Kelly!

Mario Dominguez Gets Engaged

Architectural Designer Mario Dominguez and his partner Mike Matthews were engaged on July 23 when Mario proposed to Mike of 5 years. The surprise occurred at the couple's favorite bridge under the stars in Christmastown of Yankee Candle's massive Flagship venue. Please join us in congratulating this wonderful couple!

and how it will fit [within the context of downtown](#) Spartanburg. The 10-story, 114-room boutique hotel is slated to break ground in late September, with construction scheduled to finish in March 2017.



CONTACT

Dear Readers,

We welcome your feedback and comments to our newsletter. Submissions can be sent to newsletter@dmsas.com for potential inclusion in our next edition!

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