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2024 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Bruce R. Wardell
Organization brwarchitects, p.c.
Location Charlottesville, Virginia
Chapter AIA Virginia;

Category of Nomination

Object 5 (Alternative Career, Service to Society, Volunteer Work) > Service to Society

Summary Statement

Bruce Wardell changes what people expect from architects by reversing historical power relationships in underserved communities; challenging architects to turn civic values into action; and amplifying the impact of nonprofits and ministries through design.

Education

University of Virginia, 1974-1977, Master of Architecture
University of Virginia, 1970-1974, Bachelor of Architecture

Licensed in:

Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina

Employment

brwarchitects, p.c. 1985-present
Richard Shank Associates, 1981-1985
U.S. Peace Corps, Kingdom of Tonga Ministry of Works, 1977-1981



Bruce Wardell, AIA

2024 FELLOWSHIP
SUBMISSION

“What really sets Bruce apart is how his impact nourishes not just the built environment, but the human spirit.”

—Taha Suhrawardy, 2020 Erwin-Ramsey Fellow

September 28, 2023

Lisa Lamkin, FAIA, Chair, 2024 Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Re: **Bruce Wardell, AIA** - Nomination: *Object 5 – Service to Society*

Dear Lisa and Members of the Jury:

Have you ever met someone who entirely gives of themselves, who inexhaustibly focuses on others... makes them better, more articulate, more engaged, more talented, more successful? *Well, that describes exactly who **Bruce Wardell, AIA** is!*

For over four decades now, I've witnessed just how amazingly selfless Bruce is and how *he works tirelessly to transform other peoples' lives*. In his own soft-spoken, low-key, gentle way, Bruce is entirely dedicated, persuasive and resolute in helping others. Though Bruce is an exceptional designer and award-winning architect, widely recognized for his talent and creativity, it is because of his accomplished career in upholding and lifting up others that I am nominating him for fellowship in recognition of his *service to society*.

What motivates Bruce? The first time I met Bruce, he was leading a discussion about the relevance of art and architecture in the daily life of faith-based communities, an age-old ideological debate where not everyone agrees. *Yet, he persevered*. Bruce also served in the Peace Corps where he discovered just how critical local relationships are in building communities. He also founded his local chapter of Habitat for Humanity and pioneered their national expansion from single family homes to whole neighborhood revitalization. Bruce found his calling in these early experiences... *improving the social conditions for people to live a full life*. Today, he remains determined to bring an architect's talent and insight to organizations that help others... safe shelters for women, beautiful hospices for families, dignified homes for those without permanent homes, creative preschools for children, effective food centers for the hungry... all crucial roles in our communities. Even though "society has forgotten how to take care of its people," as a recent magazine headline declares, *Bruce shows us how*.

Bruce advocates for others. From his early days working in religious communities, he developed a personal understanding of the connection between big ideas and practicality. As a result, he is

effective in helping people see the relationship between their life's ambition and what it takes to realize it. He is remarkably adept in both worlds... big change and individual action. Bruce created a resident-led process that bridges the divide between experts and residents, building relationships which reveal the character residents bring to the process, not only accepting them for who they are and what they do, but giving them a powerful voice and employing their skills in the outcome. *He helps us all "see" those who have been "unseen"... and raises the profile, awareness and value of architects and architecture.*

Bruce encourages the rest of us. He believes individuals can make a difference and he intentionally shares what he has learned. Bruce speaks at national conferences showing us that society needs our skills to accomplish common goals in our communities, not just in our buildings. He teaches college students to pursue a career beyond the traditional limits of practice. And, in perhaps his most demonstrative roles, he challenges the best and brightest young architects in his *Erwin Ramsey Fellowship* and Virginia's *Emerging Leaders in Architecture* that *community service and critical engagement are not separate, personal interests, but are integral to architecture practice.*

Bruce elicits the best ideas from others and actively participates in making them happen. He elevates the role of architects and architecture in our communities, connects our visions to reality, and inspires us all to become our best selves. There is no better testimony to his personal character and his professional commitment. We could not have a better representative of our profession and we could not have a better colleague as a Fellow.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Frickie, FAIA

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SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS



“Bruce’s work provides an important model for challenging normative power structures in community development. ...The design process for the Southwood Trailer Park is groundbreaking.”

—Judith Kinnard, FAIA, Professor of Architecture, Harvey-Wadsworth Chair of Landscape Urbanism, Tulane University



BRUCE WARDELL, AIA

Bruce Wardell changes what people expect from architects

by reversing historical power relationships in underserved communities; challenging architects to turn civic values into action; and amplifying the impact of nonprofits and ministries through design.

REVERSING POWER RELATIONSHIPS

Bruce champions residents of underserved communities through a national model for resident-led neighborhood redevelopment. This strategy inverts the traditional power relationship between ‘expert’ planners and low-income communities facing redevelopment.

Underserved communities often experience being ‘subjected to’ development, rather than being active shapers of their environment. Bruce’s community engagement strategy is based on building authentic relationships with residents who bring their character and vision to the process. **Bruce believes residents are experts about their own communities.**

Bruce guides resident planners through intensive workshops to use their strengths and skills to become fully-equipped expert neighborhood planners.

Residents design their own neighborhood, write their own Code of Development, create their own Architectural Review Boards, and represent themselves as they obtain complex entitlements from the very authorities who have marginalized them for generations.

Bruce pushes for fundamental change in these traditional relationships between experts and residents, where architects will not only build affordable and equitable housing but plant the seeds of justice and equity within our communities.

CHALLENGING ARCHITECTS TO TURN CIVIC VALUES INTO ACTION

Bruce challenges young architects and his colleagues to think and act in their communities beyond the limits of traditional practice. He teaches the brightest young architects in the state each year in AIA Virginia’s Emerging Leaders in Architecture Academy, where he leads the Serving Communities track of seminars.

Bruce established the highly competitive Erwin-Ramsey Fellowship which draws the most civically ambitious 4th year undergraduate and Graduate students each summer. Bruce provides mentorship and support for Fellows to address affordability and equity in the city where they study. Erwin-Ramsey Fellows have contributed to the development of affordable housing, neighborhood food security, inclusive design for teens and youths, and other key issues which shape the development of Charlottesville.

Bruce teaches the resident-led design model at the University of Virginia School of Architecture, where he is an annual lecturer. He challenges his colleagues locally and nationally, speaking at universities, AIA conferences, and national housing conferences, focusing on justice in the constructed environment and making cities livable for all residents. Bruce cultivates these values in his own practice and challenges others to offer their resources in the same way.

AMPLIFYING THE IMPACT OF NONPROFITS AND MINISTRIES

Bruce has dedicated much of his career to amplifying the services and ministries provided by churches, synagogues, and nonprofits. This trajectory was fueled by his belief that architecture is one of the best, most flexible tools to serve the most vulnerable in our communities.

Bruce broadens the boundaries of architectural practice as he guides congregations through Master Planning services. He has worked with over 70 churches and congregations over nearly 40 years. **Bruce’s Master Plans have allowed organizations—both faith-based and secular—to create strategic plans for outreach and growth, create capital campaigns to secure their futures, and strengthen their communities to flourish.**

The foundation of Bruce’s work is building genuine relationships within each client’s community, a value he gained from his Peace Corps service in Tonga. Strong relationships are the foundation for shared ownership, which makes collaboration and consensus successful.

Over the last decade Bruce has developed a robust affordable housing studio, dedicated to eliminating homelessness and providing permanent supportive housing for vulnerable communities in Charlottesville. He is currently Principal-in-Charge for affordable housing projects with every housing advocacy group in the City.

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SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



“I admire Bruce’s ability to empower communities whose voices have historically been silenced, to become leaders and advocates within the design process. Also honorable is Bruce’s dedication to instilling these principles into the next generation of architects.”

—**Corey Claybourne, FAIA**, Senior Vice President of Knowledge and Practice for the AIA, Emerging Leaders in Architecture Academy Alum (2011)



Bruce and South First Street Resident Planners



Resident Planner workshops use accessible, hands-on tools



REVERSING POWER RESIDENT-LED AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

Southwood Village 1 (*Exhibit 2)

Dedicated August 5, 2023

**2020 Honorable Mention, AIA Central Virginia*

RESIDENT-LED DESIGN | LIHTC

Bruce created the curriculum and led resident workshops from 2017-2020 using resident-led redevelopment strategies. *The resident-led development process has now been replicated in four neighborhoods totaling 363 homes, over 50% of which are deeply affordable.*

South First Street Redevelopment (*Exhibit 3)

Construction commences Spring 2024

RESIDENT-LED DESIGN | LIHTC

Bruce was Principal-in-Charge for weekly resident planning workshops with public housing residents over two years, building skills to shape the redevelopment of their neighborhood from 58 to 113 deeply affordable homes.

MACAA Affordable Infill Housing

Anticipated Fall 2024 LIHTC

Bruce leads the design team for a mixed-income development of 66 deeply affordable units, 20 Habitat homes, 10 market-rate homes, and a 60-child Early Learning Center. Bruce successfully garnered neighborhood support for the project where a previous team had failed to move forward.

Hickory Hope Affordable Housing

Breaks ground November 2023

RESIDENT-LED DESIGN | LIHTC

Principal-in-Charge of the design for two deeply affordable apartment buildings providing 121 units and community space. The buildings are designed in accordance with the Southwood Code of Development created by Southwood Resident Planners.

‘The Crossings at 4th & Preston’ SRO (*Exhibit 7)

Completed 2012 LIHTC

Site selection, community engagement, and design leadership for the new facility providing permanently supportive housing for 60 formerly homeless individuals. *Bruce’s leadership established sustainability standards for VSH’s future development projects.*

Habitat for Humanity Builder’s Blitz

Completed 2006

Bruce served on the event Planning Committee and lead the design team for one of six houses, built in six days by six different architecture firms, for six Habitat families.

Premier Circle Supportive Housing for the Homeless

Anticipated Spring 2024 LIHTC

Principal-in-Charge of the planning and design team for a supportive housing facility for 80 formerly homeless individuals. Fast track entitlements led to LIHTC tax credits and coordination among four housing advocacy organizations.

Affordable Senior Housing and Preschool at Park Street Christian Church

Anticipated LIHTC Approval 2024

*Park Street Church was inspired by the work of 2019 Erwin Ramsey Fellow, Amanda Harlow (*Exhibit 9). Amanda created a guide for churches to convert portions of their property, especially underused parking, into affordable housing as part of their ministry to the community.* The church is donating 4.5 acres of land for 60 affordable senior housing apartments and a preschool. The project will achieve an intergenerational community between the seniors and the preschool, facilitated by the socially conscious congregation.

Southwood ‘Village 2’ Mixed-Income Development

Anticipated Spring 2024

RESIDENT-LED DESIGN

Bruce led a 20-week series of virtual workshops during the early pandemic for residents to plan and design a 66-unit mixed-income neighborhood including 38 deeply affordable Habitat homes.

Southwood ‘Village 3’ Mixed-Income Development

Anticipated Spring 2025

RESIDENT-LED DESIGN

Bruce worked with residents to create a redeveloped neighborhood using his workshop curriculum without displacement. The new 88-home mixed-income home includes 46 deeply affordable Habitat homes replacing severely deteriorated mobile homes.



ReadyKids



High Street United Methodist



Brody Jewish Center at UVA



Temple Beth Israel

AMPLIFYING SERVICE NONPROFIT & MINISTRY PROJECTS

Bruce uses the Master Planning and design process to invigorate and bolster community services and ministries provided by nonprofits and congregations. He has worked with over 70 churches and synagogues since 1985, developing expertise in uniting diverse and sometimes conflicting interests through the design process. Known for going far beyond the conventional role of architect, Bruce uses a consensus-based approach, builds trusting and genuine relationships throughout each organization, and working to thoroughly understand their mission and vision.

ReadyKids Headquarters

Completed 2019

ReadyKids provides early intervention for children and families experiencing adverse events and trauma. Bruce was Principal-in-Charge of new facilities providing improved security, expanded spaces for counseling, additional resources and outreach services.

High Street United Methodist Church

Completed 2013

Bruce facilitated a whole-congregation Master Planning process as well as the design and construction of a new sanctuary, fellowship hall, and preschool. In the midst of the recession, Bruce used the project to benefit the wider community; after learning about layoffs at the local paper plant he required the general contractor to employ a portion of the laid-off workers during construction.

Temple Beth Israel (*Exhibit 6)

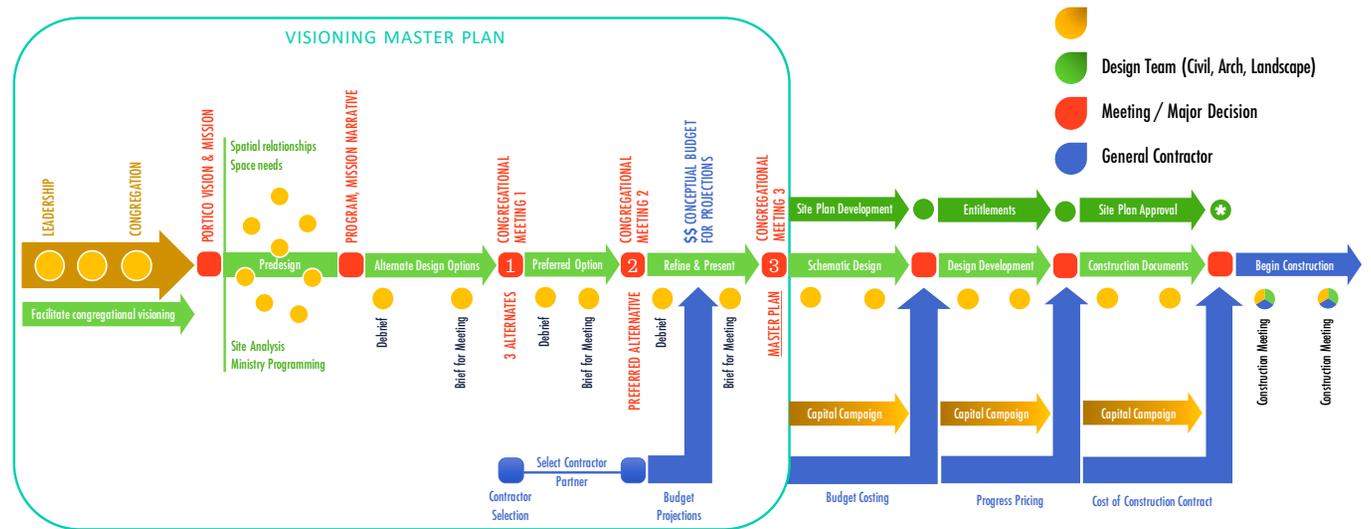
Completed 1995

* 1996 Preservation Honor Award, Alliance for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

* 1996 Excellence in Masonry Design, Virginia Masonry Council

* 1998 Excellence in Architecture, AIA Central Virginia

Bruce led the congregation through strategic planning and study phase concluding with the decision to stay in their urban location downtown. He designed an award-winning addition to the historic synagogue, providing an expanded preschool and robust gathering spaces for the Jewish community.





Stony Point Church



Women's Shelter for Help in Emergency



Hospice of the Piedmont



The Belmont Lofts

Brody Jewish Center for Hillel (*Exhibit 5)

Completed 2005

FAITH COMMUNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY (*Exhibit 5)

Bruce led a visioning process for a nationwide Capital Campaign and designed a significant expansion to the original 1939 structure to serve the Jewish student community at UVA.

St. Francis of Assisi Master Plan and Parish Hall

Completed 1999

**2004 Honor Award for Design Excellence, AIA Central Virginia*

**2004 Honor Award Excellence in Architecture, AIA Virginia*

Parish Master planning process built a renewed sense of ownership and consensus. Bruce designed additions, renovations and the conversion of parking into a central courtyard. Connecting disparate parts of the existing facility, Bruce created a handicap-accessible campus for the first time in its 100-year history.

Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall

Completed 2006

**2005 Honor Award for Design Excellence, AIA Central Virginia*

Bruce mediated tensions within the congregation throughout the Master Plan process to expand the church's capacity as rural village center. The design responds to the historic 19th century sanctuary and early 20th century parish hall.

Stony Point Presbyterian Church

Completed 2015

Bruce led a congregational Master Plan, design and construction for a new 500-seat sanctuary, renovated fellowship hall and expanded educational spaces. The expanded facility has led to significant growth in the church's ministries locally and globally.

Hospice of the Piedmont

Completed 2004

**2005 Historic Preservation Award, City of Charlottesville*

**2006 Historic Preservation Award, AIA Central Virginia*

Bruce led the first building program in the group's history, renovating and designing an addition to the early twentieth-century residence. His attention to the individual and family's experience created what Hospice calls the "last and best place" that many clients ever experience.

Center for Christian Study

Completed 1996

FAITH COMMUNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY (*Exhibit 5)

CCS at UVA was the first Study Center established of its kind in the U.S. Its leadership went on to establish centers at Harvard, Penn, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon and other universities. Bruce designed an addition with a unique combination of research library, study space, meeting rooms, offices and fellows residences, more than doubling the size of the original facility. 'Finding the soul of a building' was Bruce's address at the building's dedication.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Completed 1992

Trinity Episcopal Church was established in the historically Black neighborhood of Vinegar Hill and has become the most diverse congregation in the City. Bruce led conversations and the design for extensive additions expanding their ministries of food security for local residents and a commercial kitchen leased to budding healthy food entrepreneurs.

Shelter for Help in Emergency

Completed 2008

Bruce designed the first LEED Silver women's emergency shelter in the nation. The residential facility allowed the organization to serve more women in crisis as a safe haven for themselves and their children. Bedroom suites and living spaces reinforce the feeling of a safe place.

The Belmont Lofts

Completed 2002

**2006 Honor Award for Design Excellence, AIA Central Virginia*

**2005 Herman Key, Jr. Access to the Disabled Award*

**2002 Annual Planning Award for Outstanding Development*

Architect and Principal-in-Charge for the development of 42 urban loft residential units on a city-owned brownfield along the edge of the railroad. Widely credited as triggering the renaissance of the surrounding Belmont neighborhood into 'Charlottesville's SoHo.' The design recalls the historic raiiside warehouses and provides a central community garden.



AMPLIFYING SERVICE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The design of childhood environments is a specialty distinct from K-12 learning environments. Bruce’s firm served for seven years in the Bright Horizon’s Architects Guild. Bruce also served as the AIA National Co-Chair of the Early Childhood Subcommittee for Architecture in Education. He developed and presented the AIA Webinar ‘Take a Walk on the Child Side’ with Chair Mike Wells.

Sharon L Hostler Child Development Center at UVA

Completed 2012

Bruce led charrettes and the design for a 132 child early learning center serving the Medical Center staff and their families, solving long waiting lists for high quality, affordable child care.

High Street United Methodist Church Preschool

Completed 2012

The congregation provides preschool care for children of families working at the local paper plant in addition to the congregation. The preschool wing serves 64 children with high quality and affordable childcare.

Frost Montessori Preschool

Completed 1996

Using the principles of Montessori education, Bruce designed four classrooms for 60 preschool children. The classrooms vary in scale relating to each stage of development.

Marymount University Early Childhood Center

Completed 2023 (not yet photographed)

Marymount University’s highly respected preschool had been closed for two decades before Bruce led the design and reestablish the school for 64 children as a service to the surrounding northern Virginia community.



Excerpt from 'Take a Walk on the Child Side' AIA Webinar

LEADERSHIP ON COMMUNITY BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville – Co-Founder and Leadership

Co-Founder, 1990
Chair of the Board of Directors, 1990-1992, 1994-1995
President, 1990-1991, 1991-1992
Neighborhood Redevelopment Research Committee, 2008
Southwood Village Mixed-Income Master Plan Study, 2008
'Builders Blitz' (6 Houses in 6 Days, for 6 Families)
Planning Committee, 2006

Bright Horizons Early Childhood Center Guild

Bruce was a member of the seven-firm national Guild for the design of early childhood facilities from 2015-2023, and one of only two small firms in the country to be invited into the Guild.

New City Arts Initiative (NCAI)

Board of Directors, 2016-2022
Chair of the Board, 2020-2022
New City Arts Initiative brings together local creators and the community sparking connection, inquiry, and social transformation. NCAI honors art's unique ability to connect people by speaking to deep human experiences. Bruce served on the Board for six years and President of the Board of Directors for three years increasing funding by 50% and inventing numerous outreaches for the gallery during the pandemic.

Charlottesville SOUP

Master of Ceremonies, 2016, 2017, 2018
A program of New City Arts Initiative
Charlottesville SOUP is a public community dinner series to create crowdfunded grants for artists in the city of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

Friends of Downtown Charlottesville

Executive Committee, 2022-2023
The organization's mission is to make Charlottesville a more inclusive place for everyone by working with city government and the community to craft strategies and programs that stimulate Downtown social and economic vitality.

Charlottesville Area Development Roundtable (CADRe)

Bruce served on the initial Board of Directors leading the collaborative efforts of the design, development and construction industry focused on creating great civic places in Charlottesville.

Architectural Review Board, Albemarle County

Board Member, 2009-2019
Chair of the Board, 2014-2015, 2017-2018
Vice Chair of the Board, 2016

Center for Christian Study

Board of Directors, 1993-1996
As Board Member for the Center and the Architect behind their successful expansion, Bruce was invited to join on the Board of Directors where he served for three years.

Christ Community Church

Elder, 1987-1994, 1997-2007
Bruce was a founding Elder in 1987 and served for twenty years with a congregation focused on serving the urban community. Located adjacent to subsidized housing the congregation offered after school tutoring, residential reentry programs for men after prison, teaching English as a second language and financial counseling for neighborhood residents.



Habitat Builders Blitz

C'ville SOUP fundraiser for local artists

AIA SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

National Co-Chair, AIA Early Childhood Education Subcommittee

AIA Committee on Architecture in Education, 2016-18
Bruce organized quarterly focus groups, facilitated a greater focus on awards for early childhood projects, and developed an AIA webinar on design strategies.

AIA Virginia

Member, 1996-present
Executive Committee 1998-2000, 2001-2002
Architecture Week Committee, Organizing Executive Committee 1998-2000, 2010-2012
Honors Committee 2019-2022

Emerging Leaders in Architecture (ELA) Academy – AIA Virginia

Organizing Committee 2011-2021
Nominations Committee 2011, 2001
Executive Committee, 2011-2020
Created, Developed and Led Serving Communities Curriculum, 2011-present
Started in 2009, ELA is an intensive program undertaken over the course of a year by a small cadre of participants selected for their potential to be outstanding contributors to the profession and the community.

AIA Central Virginia

Member 1996-present
President 1999-2000, 2001-2002
Vice President and President Elect 1998-2000, 2000-2001
Executive Committee 2002-2003
Honors Committee 2012-2015, 2007, 2003-2005

AIA Virginia Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture (IFRAA)

Founding Board Member, 2008
Board of Directors, 2008-2011
Executive Committee, 2008-2010
Convention Seminar Track Design 2008-2011

AIA Virginia IFRAA: ‘The Nature of Sacred Space’ Annual Seminar Series

Architecture Exchange East
Between 2008 and 2011, Bruce initiated an annual day-long track at Architecture Exchange East Conference. The track focused on a different aspect of the Nature of Sacred Space each year.

2011 Series: ‘Spirituality and Sustainability’

- ‘Sustainability and Spirituality
- ‘Sustainable Design Applied to Religious Facilities
- “Our 21st Century Challenge: Redefining Sacred Space” (lecture)

2010 Series: ‘Three Traditions’

- Three Traditions: Common Heritage
- Christianity, Judaism and Islam
- Panel Discussion and the State of the Art, moderated by Bruce and also presenting a visual synopsis of current design work for Jewish and Islamic architecture in the United States

2009 Series: ‘Context and Culture’

- The Worship Environment: Emerging Market Trends
- The Worship Environment: Traditional and Inspirational Influences
- The Work of Leo A. Daly
- Panel Discussion: Context and Culture, Moderator

2008 Series: ‘Secular and Sacred’

- Walking Tour — Richmond Houses of Worship
- Understanding the Horizon
- Cathedral of Christ the Light
- Secular and Sacred discussion, moderated by Bruce

OTHER JURY SERVICE

Virginia School Board Architecture Competition Award Jury

2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

CONNECTIONS Actionable Urbanism Studio, Guest Juror

North Carolina State University College of Design, 2019
CONNECTIONS 2019 is an architect-led graduate design initiative that facilitates socially responsible urban development conversations for sites not yet developed. The course redefines the current role of the architect as one of optimist, innovator, researcher, and activist.

University of Virginia School of Architecture, Final Design Jury

Fourth Year Design Studio, 2005
Fourth Year Urban Design Studio, 2004
Second Year Design Studio, 2004
Third Year Urban Design Studio, 2002

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

'Resident-Led Design Strategies'

w/ Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Talk 20 Conference, Pittsburgh AIA
Pittsburgh, PA, Fall 2023

**'Resident-Led Redevelopment:
Southwood Village'**

Habitat for Humanity International Conference
Atlanta, GA, April 2024

**'A Crooked Path Toward Equity:
An Introduction and Application
to Resident-Led Design'**

'Are We There Yet?' International Making Cities Livable
Conference,
Carmel, IN, 2021

**'Resident-Led Redevelopment: Southwood
and South First Street' Invited Speaker**

Constructed Environments Conference
(paper accepted, conference canceled due to Pandemic)
Berkeley, CA, 2020

'How Artists Work in Community'

Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) International
Conference
Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota 2019

**'Sustainable Design: Systems and
Strategies for a New Regionalism'**

Kenyon College Sustainability Week
Gambier, Ohio, 2008

'Take a Walk on the Child Side' – AIA Webinar

Early Childhood Education Sub-Committee, AIA
Committee on Architecture in Education

AIA National Virtual Webinar

'Building Consensus, Building Community'

Architecture Exchange East Conference, 2007

**'Belmont Lofts: A Catalyst for
Neighborhood Renewal'**

University of Virginia School of Architecture, 2003

**'Belmont Commons: Urban Housing
Collaborative Neighborhood Design'**

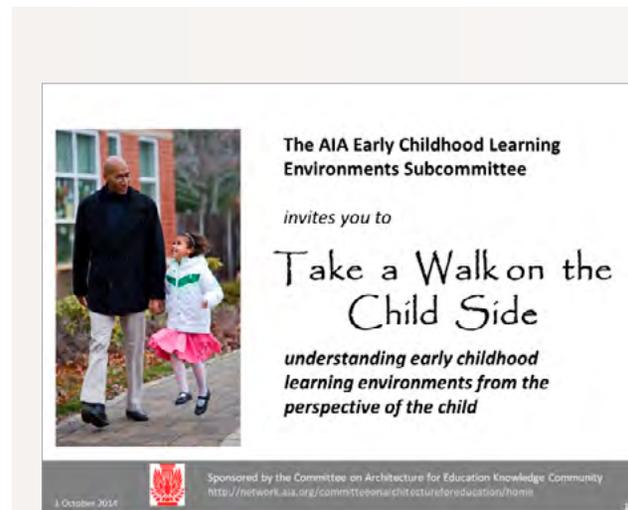
Architecture Week, AIA Central Virginia, 2001

**Sacred Space: Jewish and Greek Approaches
to the Nature of Sacred Space**

University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1999

'The Effect of Liturgy on Sacred Space'

University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1998

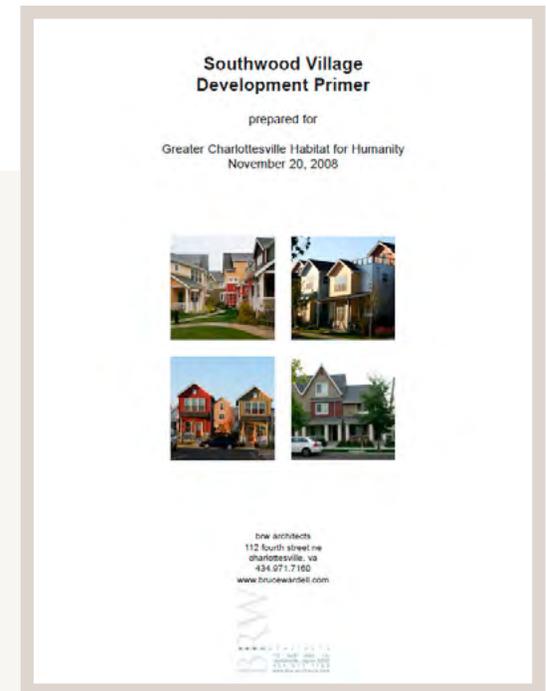


**'Understanding the Soul of a Building'
Building Dedication Lecture**

Center for Christian Study, University of Virginia, 1997

**'Urban Housing Development and
the Neighborhood Design Process'
(Luncheon Lecture Series)**

w/ Belmont Commons Urban Housing
University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1995



Regional Church Planning Seminar Series

Founder and Speaker

brwarchitects, p.c., 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991, 1990

Bruce had built expertise working with congregations throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Bruce's attitude this expertise as a gift to be offered back to the community. He established an annual seminar series, hosting congregations in Charlottesville. The annual conference provided attendees with strategies and training for the decisions in creating a building program. Guest speakers included a liturgical artist, a fundraising consultant, and a banker who specialized in financing for congregations.

Charlottesville, Virginia

'Sacred Space and Postmodernism'

"Utility or Mystery: Sacred Space and Art in a Postmodern Setting" symposium

Washington Arts Group

The National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., 1993

'The Nature of Sacred Space'

'Tinkers in the Toy Shop' Washington Arts Group National Conference, 1992

The National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

'Romanticism and the search for a moral architecture'

National Cathedral, Washington Arts Group

Washington, DC, 1991

'Hellenic and Hebraic Thinking in Architecture'

Hellenic and Hebraic roots in the architecture of Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright

L'Abri Study Center in Huemoz, Switzerland, 1981

Survey of Traditional Buildings, Kingdom of Tonga Presentation

Tonga Traditions Committee at The Bishop Museum Honolulu, Hawaii, 1979

'Methods of Community Engagement and Research' Guest Lecturer

2023, 2022, 2021, 2020

University of Virginia School of Architecture

Professor: Barbara Brown Wilson, PhD

'Neighborhood Values': Resident-Led Design, Workshop, Spring 2023

Students take on the roles of residents and develop neighborhood designs based on characteristics and values they establish

'Power at the Center of the Neighborhood': Resident-Led Design, Workshop, Fall 2022

How to recognize, preserve and protect the power residents have in their communities.

'Appreciative Inquiry': Resident-Led Design, Workshop, Spring 2022

How to view underserved communities through the lens of strengths and resources.

'Asset-Based Community Development': Resident-Led Design, Workshop, Fall 2021

An approach to community engagement in which neighborhoods are assessed by the assets, skills, creativity and courage which already exists in every under resourced community.

'Strategies and Workshops': Southwood Village Resident-Led Planning, Spring 2021

Presented the framework of workshops, field trips, and concepts used to accomplish the design and approvals residents of Southwood had obtained.



'Relationships as a Basis for Development': Southwood Village Resident-Led Planning, Fall 2020

Taking the Time: The critical role of creating relationships and building trust in the shadow of the failure of traditional redevelopment strategies.

'Resident-Led Design in the Pandemic: Creating new tools for residents in remote sessions, Lecture, Spring 2020

Investigations into alternative resources for remote meetings and trust-building with low-income residents in resident-led planning.

Southwood Village: Successful Strategies for Resident-Led Redevelopment', Lecture, Fall 2019

Outlined resident meeting strategies as a system for successful approvals for neighborhood redevelopment.

South First Street Resident Planners: Perspective Bruce and Resident Planners shared strategies, lessons learned, next steps to graduate architecture design students.

SERVICE AWARDS

AIA Distinguished Achievement Award – for Design Excellence and Commitment to Community

AIA Virginia, 2003

Eldon Fields Wood Design Professional of the Year

City of Charlottesville, 2011

AIA Community Service Award

AIA Central Virginia, 1999

Circle of Excellence – Top Performing Firm

PSMJ Resources, Inc., 2019

The Circle of Excellence highlights successfully-managed firms that demonstrate outstanding achievements.

PROJECT AWARDS

AIA Honorable Mention for Design Excellence – Southwood Village

AIA Central Virginia, 2020

Governor’s Housing Award – Best Affordable Housing Energy Conservation Effort

For ‘The Crossings’, 2013

Sustainable Leadership Award – Multifamily New Construction Project of the Year – The Crossings

Earthcraft Virginia, 2013

AIA Honor Award for Design Excellence – The Crossings

AIA Central Virginia, 2012

North American Icynene Project of the Year – High Street Methodist Church

Icynene Corporation, 2012

IDEA Interior Design Award Honorable Mention – High Street Methodist Church

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and International Interior Design Association (IIDA), 2012

Annual Planning Award for Outstanding Sustainable Development – The Crossings SRO

City of Charlottesville, 2012

Outstanding Sustainable Development Award – Arch’s Frozen Yogurt

City of Charlottesville, 2008

AIA Honor Award for Design Excellence – The Belmont Lofts

AIA Central Virginia, 2006

AIA Historic Preservation Award for Design Excellence – Hospice House

AIA Central Virginia, 2006

Herman Key, Jr. Access to the Disabled Award – The Belmont Lofts

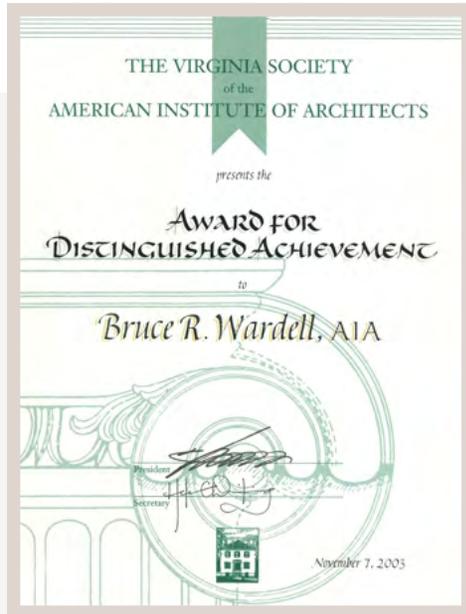
City of Charlottesville, 2005

Preservation Award for Historic Building Rehabilitation – Hospice House

City of Charlottesville, 2005

AIA Honor Award for Design Excellence – Grace Episcopal Church

AIA Central Virginia, 2005



2.2 SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION

AIA Honor Award for Design Excellence – St. Francis of Assisi Church

AIA Virginia, 2004

AIA Honor Award for Design Excellence – St. Francis of Assisi Church

AIA Central Virginia, 2004

Annual Planning Award for Outstanding Plan of Development – The Belmont Lofts

City of Charlottesville, 2002



CSX Urban Housing and Brownfield Redevelopment Award

City of Charlottesville, Belmont Neighborhood Association, 2001
(w/ StoneHaus Development Company)

AIA Excellence in Architecture – Temple Beth Israel

AIA Virginia, 1998

AIA Excellence in Architecture – Temple Beth Israel

AIA Central Virginia, 1998

Preservation Honor Award – Temple Beth Israel

Alliance for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities – Thomas Jefferson District, 1996



Excellence in Masonry Design, Ecclesiastical/Institutional Category – Temple Beth Israel

Virginia Masonry Council, 1996

AIA Honor Award for Design Excellence

AIA Virginia, for 'Tower for Two Boys', 199



ABOUT BRUCE'S WORK

Resident-Led Design and Affordable Housing Projects

Southwood Celebrates the Completion of its first Village

Amaya Mitchell, NBC29, 2023

[Southwood to welcome first families to new homes at dedication ceremony](#)

Luke Fountain, The Daily Progress, 2023

[Resident-Led Redevelopment: Senator Tim Kaine visits Southwood Mobile Home Park](#)

Catie Ratcliff, Cville Weekly, 2023

Senator Tim Kaine visits Southwood Community

Madison McNamee, NBC29, 2023

CRHA, PHA, and Habitat getting funding for affordable housing projects

CBS19 News, 2023

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[In an old mobile-home park in Charlottesville, the residents get a say in the redevelopment](#)

Kathy Orton and Samantha Schmidt, The Washington Post, 2019

[Charlottesville, Virginia Embraces Housing First to Tackle Regional Homelessness](#)

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SRO time: The Crossings begins its rise downtown

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Charlottesville's first SRO facility breaks ground

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A New Day at Sunrise

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[SRO: A Permanent Solution to Homelessness](#)

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E. Mary Carlson, UVa Today, 2006

[About Bruce and his practice](#)

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Erika Howsare, Cville Weekly, 2016

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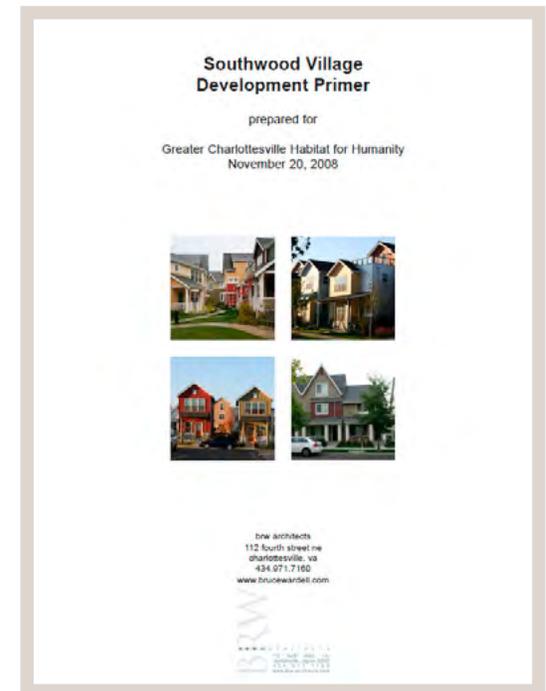
Sandra Guy, Luxury Home Quarterly, 2011

Charlottesville Architect Found A Way To Transform An Old Church Into A Family Home

Charlottesville House & Home, 2008

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Julie Young, Richmond Times-Dispatch, 2007



What You Get for the Money (TV Feature)

HGTV, Season 4, episode 10. (Original air date 3/25/07)



Church Home is Where Family Congregates

David A. Maurer, The Daily Progress, 2006

Mount Paran: A Room With a Pew

Lynn Jo Jameson, The Hook, 2006

Virginia Awards for Design Excellence Reflect a Growth in Global Practice

AIArchitect This Week, 2005

New Life for Old Churches

Judy Mandell, The Christian Science Monitor, 2005

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall

Cville Business Journal, 2004

Amazing Grace: Grace Church Parish House

Vernon Mays, Inform Magazine, 2003

SoHo in Belmont – The Belmont Lofts

Rebecca Beirne, The Hook, 2002

New Orientation: Frost Montessori School

Inform Magazine, 2002

About Bruce's work with Congregations

Full Service Partners: Architectural Firms Are Doing More Than Ever To Help Churches Build

Gayla R. Postma, ChristianityToday.com, 2003

Built for Sound: Notes from a Consultant on How To Build Acoustics Into a Church

Vance Breshears, ChristianityToday.com, 2001

Winning Church Designs: Outstanding Additions Seamlessly Blend Past, Present and Future

Gayla R. Postma, ChristianityToday.com, 2001

Draft the Right Architect: How to Choose One To Build, Not Break, Your Church

Gary DeBois, ChristianityToday.com, 1999

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Robin De Mattia, ChristianityToday.com, 1999

Cook Up A Great Church Kitchen: Churches Show How to Fellowship with Food

Mary Ann Parmley, ChristianityToday.com, 1999

Building Blocks: Builders and Architects Address Five of your Construction Concerns

Your Church Magazine, 1999

A Secular Village – Temple Beth Israel

INFORM Magazine, 1999

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PUBLICATIONS BY BRUCE WARDELL

Resident-Led Redevelopment Curriculum

This curriculum described the foundation of the national model for the neighborhood development where residents take the lead in guiding the planning and design process. Habitat affiliates, community leaders and resident advocates can use the strategies and content for their own neighborhoods. Completion anticipated 2024.

Southwood Village Development Primer

Published by Bruce for Habitat for Humanity, 2008

A Short History of Church Building'

Self-published pamphlet guide distributed regionally to a network of churches throughout Central Virginia, 1996

Architecture, Building and Faith

Quarterly regional (Southern Mid-Atlantic) magazine published by brwarchitects. Based off the success of Bruce's regional church-planning seminar. 1990-1994

Understanding Why and How We Build for our Congregations

Architecture, Building and Faith Magazine, 2006

Survey of Traditional Buildings 1977-1981: Kingdom of Tonga

The Tonga Traditions Committee, The Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii

3

EXHIBITS



“Over the past 20+ years, Bruce has pursued a path in architecture relentless in its dedication to social justice, creative in its composition, and determined in his understanding of shifting power dynamics.”

—Katie Swenson, Assoc. AIA, Senior Principal of MASS Design Group

More important
Mds important

3.0 LIST OF EXHIBITS



EXHIBIT 3.1
REVERSING POWER
RESIDENT-LED
NEIGHBORHOOD
REDEVELOPMENT



EXHIBIT 3.2
REVERSING POWER
'SOUTHWOOD
VILLAGE 1'
NEIGHBORHOOD
REDEVELOPMENT



EXHIBIT 3.3
REVERSING POWER
SOUTH FIRST STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD
REDEVELOPMENT



EXHIBIT 3.4
AMPLIFYING IMPACT
PEACE CORPS
SERVICE



EXHIBIT 3.5
AMPLIFYING IMPACT
FAITH
COMMUNITIES AT
THE UNIVERSITY



EXHIBIT 3.6
AMPLIFYING IMPACT
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL



EXHIBIT 3.7
AMPLIFYING IMPACT
THE CROSSINGS AT
4TH & PRESTON
SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING



EXHIBIT 3.8
**TURNING CIVIC
VALUES INTO ACTION**
EMERGING LEADERS
IN ARCHITECTURE
(ELA) ACADEMY



EXHIBIT 3.9
**TURNING CIVIC
VALUES INTO ACTION**
THE ERWIN-RAMSEY
FELLOWSHIP

RESIDENT-LED NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT

REVERSING POWER

CHALLENGE

‘So, is this going to be another one of those bu——it meetings where you pretend to listen to us and then go away and ignore everything we say?’

– first resident question at the first workshop

These same residents now present to the Governor, local officials, architecture students, and the general public about their experiences as leaders of the redevelopment of their own neighborhoods.

The question above, asked at the first workshop, concisely summarizes generations of unequal power between residents of underserved communities and professional neighborhood redevelopment ‘experts.’

Bruce responds to this legacy by pursuing genuine and authentic relationships with residents, uplifting their stories and centering their experiences.

FIRM BRWARCHITECTS

DATE ONGOING

ROLE PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE

Understanding how a community’s difficult history casts long shadows is a prerequisite for rebuilding genuine, equitable and just relationships.

Bruce creates a new way of working between underserved community members and architects, inverting these long standing patterns. In a resident-led planning process, residents:

- **Articulate the values their communities represent;**
- **Plan how their neighborhoods are organized;**
- **Identify shared open spaces where children can play safely;**
- **Control how future development will take place, and what it will look like;**
- **Protect themselves and neighbors from displacement, and;**
- **Leverage moral authority to gain support from the very institutions which have marginalized them in the past.**

Bruce cultivates these relationships through Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). The ABCD framework recognizes residents’ expertise and assets which already exist within each community. From the start of working with residents through the end of the project, **the focus is on residents’ values, assets, strengths, and successes, rather than deficits, problems, and damages.**

ROLE

Bruce begins by investing time in fellowship with residents, sharing meals, telling stories, and asking each other: ‘How did you get here?’ ‘What did you do the last time you needed help?’ ‘How do you get ready for your favorite holiday?’ These conversations reveal the network of relationships and resources used by their community in lieu of robust public resources.

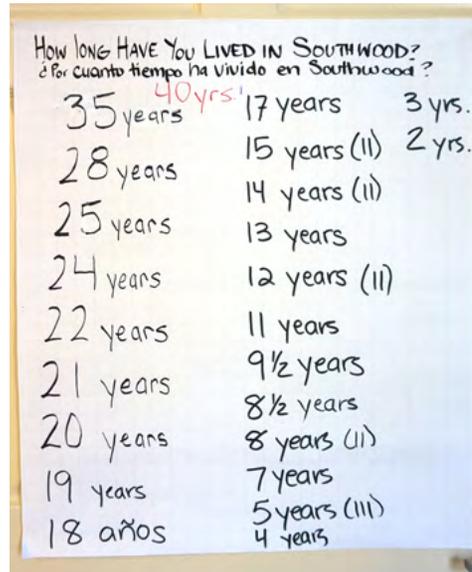
The genuine and authentic relationships formed during this phase are the foundation for successful resident-led design. Bruce acts as a facilitator, reinforcing the confidence and identifying the resources residents discuss.

Bruce creates a positive and fertile environment for residents to imagine what their new neighborhoods might be like. Neighbors who have known each other for years discover shared values and articulate shared aspirations.

As relationships grow in depth and breadth, Bruce facilitates workshops and

“Bruce developed a truly unique model of community empowerment that elevated Southwood community members as architects of their own future.”

—Dan Rosenweig, AIA Central Virginia Community Service Award | Virginia Housing Alliance Gamechanger 2016 | President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville,



Discussion Prompts start with relationships, not design



Workshops take place in Spanish and English



Resident-Led Design Workshop



organizes field trips for residents to learn how neighborhood characteristics represent different ideas about how they want to live together.

This first phase is time-intensive compared to standard development processes. Bruce combines planning concepts with hands-on application to analyze the residents' own specific neighborhood and site conditions. As ideas and designs congeal, Bruce reflects residents' work back to them so they can continually self-assess and compare their efforts to *their* values articulated in their early conversations.

The outcome of resident-led neighborhood redevelopment is site plans, design controls, and neighborhood designs created by the residents who will live there. The designs reflect their values and capture their vision with real, buildable development.

As resident planning grows more successful, Bruce's visibility as "the expert" diminishes—evidence that the resident-led process has genuinely inverted traditional power dynamics.

IMPACT

Resident-led redevelopment works in the real world. Two applications of the resident-led redevelopment process are represented in Exhibits 2 and 3. Bruce's dedication to upholding the voices of residents in neighborhood renewal helps repair generational harm and empowers the community.

Resident-led design is effective in providing equitable and sustainable improvements for low-income neighborhoods. Today, residents from formerly underserved communities are inviting their "market-rate neighbors" into the culture and environment THEY have designed.

The overwhelming success of Bruce's first intensive resident-led design process in the Southwood Trailer Park community encouraged the City of Charlottesville to adopt the same strategy in the redevelopment of the South First Street public housing community downtown.

Habitat for Humanity International promotes the Southwood neighborhood as a national model for the redevelopment of manufactured home communities.

Bruce speaks locally, regionally, and nationally about the principles of resident-led redevelopment, sharing the profound and intimate stories which have grown out of the authentic relationships at the core of this movement.

“Southwood is a national model for housing redevelopment without displacement and a model in Habitat International.”

—**Rachel Dahlke**, National Manager for Neighborhood Revitalization, Habitat for Humanity International



Walking the site of future development in 2015

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell's responsibility for the Resident-Led Redevelopment process. That responsibility includes leadership as the project principal.

—**Kurt Keesecker**, AIA, Principal, brwar-chitects, Co-Leader Project Team



Sen. Kaine Visits Southwood
ALBEMARLE COUNTY

In addressing every audience, Bruce emphasizes a central principle about developing affordable housing; **'Unless we replace unjust and inequitable histories with genuine and authentic relationships that change how power is shared, we will only be building housing.'**



Resident Planners, BRW Staff Celebrate City Council Approval



Virtual reality (VR) goggles help residents visualize designs

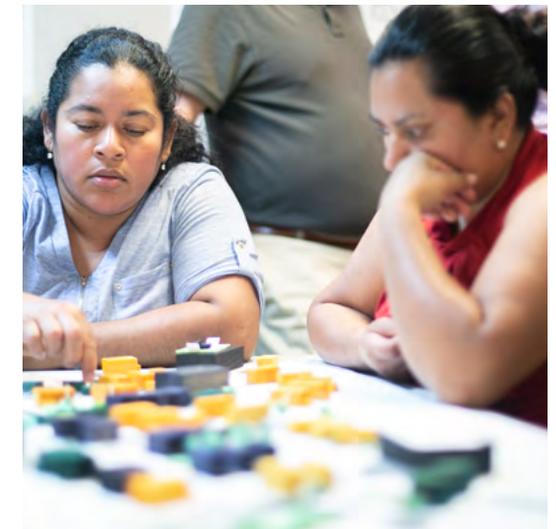




EXHIBIT
3.2

**one of 10 neighborhoods
identified nationally as a
model for redevelopment**

SOUTHWOOD VILLAGE: MASTER PLAN AND VILLAGE 1 REVERSING POWER

CHALLENGE

Bruce is transforming the idea of resident-led redevelopment into reality at Southwood Village with Habitat for Humanity. Southwood is a predominantly Spanish-speaking community of 351 families living in mobile homes. Historically neglected by the original mobile home park owner and by social services, the community comprised the largest concentration of poverty in the County.

Improving quality of life and security for the Southwood community as a non-Spanish speaking, non-community member Architectural professional, Bruce relied on his expertise that authentic relationships are a necessary foundation for working together. Creating trusting relationships requires time—much more time than a typical master plan process— for deep listening and teaching residents how to transform their talents and values into the technical skills to design their neighborhood.

ROLE

Bruce first trained his design team on Appreciative Inquiry and Asset Based Community Development. This cultivated their capacity to identify the skills and resources residents possess rather than focusing on deficits and top-down solution as they build relationships with Southwood residents.

During early conversations and sharing meals, Bruce created workshops which responded to the content of those

FIRM BRWARCHITECTS

DATE 2017-PRESENT

ROLE PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE

conversations. Each workshop focused on enhancing residents’ capacities to design their neighborhood with characteristics which reflect their values.

Resident Planners met every Thursday in a community trailer for dinner and a workshop. The workshops introduced technical knowledge such as housing types, density, open space, parking, road systems, trails, and other elements which contribute to good neighborhood design.

As the residents’ designs mature into thoughtful neighborhood plans, Bruce transitioned the focus of the workshops to political advocacy, lobbying, and public speaking skills which would be required in the complex entitlement process. He invited local planning commissioners and supervisors to visit the double wide community design trailer, introducing them to resident’s work and preparing them for the entitlement process.

IMPACT

Three hundred Southwood residents created the largest public hearing in two decades before the County Board of Supervisors and changed the dominant language from English to Spanish. Twenty-eight Resident Planners spoke at the hearing. The Supervisors voted 7-0 to approve their entitlements.

- Residents established their own Architectural Review Board to control the development of their community and ensure their core values are maintained.
- In Fall 2023, the first 94 homes of the eventual 1,100 households were dedicated. Over 50% of the community is for low-income families.
- Awarded the highly competitive Virginia Vibrant Communities Grant for \$2.25 million.
- Habitat for Humanity International identifies Southwood as a national model for the redevelopment of low-income communities in manufactured homes.
- Bruce speaks nationally on the Southwood Resident-Led process, sharing it as a model for underserved residents’ to expand power at the center of their own communities.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell’s responsibility for the Southwood Mobile Home Community Redevelopment as Project Principal.

—Whitney McDermott, AIA, Studio Mentor, brwarchitects | Southwood Project Manager

The process was collaborative from the start. Any Southwood resident who wanted to be involved in the planning process was welcomed and a group of several dozen regulars have met weekly to design streets, sidewalks, parks, arrangement of homes and to determine housing types.

"One of the Board of Supervisors members said that what they produced was better than 95% of the professional work that he'd seen submitted to them."



Residents use site plans and scale models to organize their planning strategies. Bruce’s team then translates their work into detailed documents which are reviewed by residents to confirm their designs are maintained.



Southwood Village 1 Aerial Site Plan



EXHIBIT
3.3

SOUTH FIRST STREET NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT

REVERSING POWER

CHALLENGE

With memories of the demolition of the African American Vinegar Hill neighborhood in the 1960's, South First Street neighborhood residents possessed a justified mistrust of promises of renewal and redevelopment. Following the success of Bruce's resident-led process at Southwood, the City of Charlottesville asked Bruce to replicate the resident-led planning model for the 58 public housing units. The neighborhood needed to become more dense and more safe. Bruce needed to translate the model to an urban setting with a sensitive historical legacy, and again he needed to lead residents in redeveloping their public-housing neighborhood without displacement.

ROLE

Bruce did *not* begin by burdening residents with requests for uncompensated labor: instead, he went door-to-door to meet residents, organized neighborhood picnics, and facilitated early conversations. This built the initial cohort of residents interested in envisioning the redevelopment of their neighborhood. Resident Planners were compensated for their time as valued experts in their own community.

The city's urgent schedule required fostering relationships through the early workshops while developing neighborhood planning skills. Working intensely together, they

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DATE 2018-PRESENT

ROLE PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE

found these deadlines facilitated close relationships and united the group above interpersonal differences.

Bruce leaned heavily on field trips. As Resident Planners visited a variety of neighborhoods, **the group experienced different characteristics of built environments which helped them clarify a shared value: a neighborhood that feels comfortable and safe.**

Bruce organized work sessions with City Planners and Resident Planners as the cohort prepared for the entitlement process. Bruce mentored them in preparation for their roles speaking at the planning commission and at city council meetings.

IMPACT

As word of the resident-led process spread, more neighbors sought to join the design cohort, eventually growing to represent 30% of households.

Resident Planners continue to be at the forefront of spreading word about their work:

- **Resident Planners presented their work to City Council, where they received unanimous approval and a standing ovation from both community supporters AND Council members.**
- **Their neighborhood design received Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) worth \$17 million.**
- **Residents presented to state officials and received \$2.25 million from the competitive Virginia Vibrant Communities Grant.**
- **Resident Planners were featured as panel speakers at the Governor’s Housing Conference.**
- **Bruce invites the Resident Planners to present with him at the University of Virginia to Architecture and Planning students. He also speaks individually at conferences nationwide including Constructed Environments, Making Cities Livable, and Christians in the Visual Arts.**

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell’s responsibility for the South First Street Community Redevelopment. That responsibility included leadership as the project Principal-in-Charge.

—Kurt Keesecker, Principal, brwarchitects | South First Street Project Manager



Resident Planners presenting before City Council



Resident-developed neighborhood Development (left)



EXHIBIT

3.4

PEACE CORPS SERVICE: GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT FOR THE KINGDOM OF TONGA

AMPLIFYING IMPACT

CHALLENGE

The Tongan language has 144 pronouns—just one example of a local culture which places relationships at the center of every aspect of society. With a fresh Master’s Degree, Bruce’s first professional experience as an architect required full immersion and cross-cultural skills as he served as Assistant Government Architect for the island Kingdom of Tonga.

Tonga had incurred extensive damage caused by a recent 8.0 earthquake. It needed to rebuild broadly and also provide improvements for some of the most remote islands. In the late 1980’s Tonga also faced a delicate balancing act between traditional techniques and practices and the modernization of building practices.

Building trusting relationships is woven into everything in Tongan society. In order to successfully accomplish the many infrastructure projects ahead of him, Bruce needed to suspend his cultural filters, embrace different values and behaviors, and build authentic relationships—all using a new language.

ROLE

Bruce assessed earthquake damage and causes for failure, and worked with Tongan construction workers to improve building practices throughout the country. Bruce and his British colleague created the first national building code, incorporating earthquake resistant construction.

ORGANIZATION U.S. PEACE CORPS

DATE 1977-1981

ROLE ASST. GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT

PUBLICATION

Survey of Traditional Buildings 1977-1981
The Tonga Traditions Committee, The Bishop Museum,
Honolulu, HI

To remedy dwindling freshwater supply on small remote islands, Bruce designed a system of roofs and water collection tanks. Following the advice of local villagers, he developed a system they could build themselves on their remote islands. On the island of Tofua, Bruce and his Tongan carpenter friend, Kuli, design a prefabricated panelized schoolhouse, shipped it to the island, and spent five weeks on Tofua building the schoolhouse with villagers.

Throughout this, Bruce documented the many historic structures and building techniques throughout the Ha'apai islands. He also preserved the oral histories of aging traditional builders, whose knowledge was at risk of disappearing. He applied for and received a grant from the Bishop Museum to create a comprehensive record of the traditional buildings.

Having built friendships and trust with Tongan builders both young and old, Bruce's final two projects were to create two small village visitor centers using traditional Tongan craftsmanship. He incorporated an internship where younger carpenters worked with master craftsmen to preserve traditional knowledge and methods.

IMPACT

American culture measures the number, size and cost of buildings constructed. Tongans tell stories for generations about the skinny redheaded Peace Corps volunteer in the 1970's drinking Kava, eating *poaka*, and awkwardly learning their language. Back in the United States, Bruce's Peace Corps service informed the character of his practice he established in 1983. Relationships are at the center of each BRW project. These values are built into the resident-led redevelopment curriculum for low-income communities.

In 2022 Tonga was damaged enormously by a volcano eruption. **Bruce's 1981 survey of traditional structures was discovered to be the only existing documentation of these cultural resources.** Bruce is now collaborating with Tongan faculty at the University of Auckland to determine how his documentation can be utilized for cultural restoration once health and safety are restored to those islands.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell's responsibility for his role as Assistant Government Architect for the Kingdom of Tonga during his time in the Peace Corps.

—Margaret Tobi Doty, Friend and Colleague spanning dates of service.



Carpenter Kuli and Village Volunteer School Builders



Tongan Traditional Building Craftsman

FAITH COMMUNITIES AND THE UNIVERSITY

AMPLIFYING IMPACT

CHALLENGE

The Jewish and Christian student communities make critical contributions to the spiritual and intellectual life at the University of Virginia. Both organizations are housed in former residences; Hillel in an architectural landmark in a historic neighborhood of faculty homes, and the Study Center on the historic UVA "Corner" between restaurants, bars, sororities, and fraternities. By the 90's and 2000's, both organizations were constrained by their facilities, limiting their services to the University community.

Hillel's first challenge was whether to move or stay in their current location. When they decided to stay, Bruce then needed to significantly expand their capacity for services while respecting the landmark characteristics of the original home. The Center for Christian Study (CCS) was committed to their location but Bruce needed to triple the size of the facility on a small and difficult site. Both organizations were focused on long-term strategies to sustain and expand their services.

ROLE

Bruce guided Hillel through extensive analyses and planning making a threshold decision to stay where they had been since the 1930's. Bruce's role involved leading the

FIRM BRWARCHITECTS

DATE COMPLETED 2002, 2010

ROLE PRINCIPAL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

'Deferential Treatment: Center for Christian Study'
INFORM Magazine, 1998

relationship with the surrounding Neighborhood Association and the City. He also engaged the Jewish student community learning their needs and concerns for the expanded facility.

At the Study Center he first led the organization through comprehensive programming and needs analysis, enabling organizational planning for the next decade. He designed their first research library, large group gathering spaces, offices, a bookstore, and quarters for residential scholars.

IMPACT

Hillel transformed its impact into a robust student center where, according to their records, community participation increased in key areas of their service by 39% and 80%. Today the expanded meeting spaces provide weekly community meals, the chapel holds weekly Shabbat services, and the study/lounge spaces are intensely used.

With their expanded facilities, CCS created the Elzinga Residential Scholars Program, began 'Move-In Day Lunch', and established a 'Rush Hospitality' tradition serving their Greek neighbors and caring for women during sorority recruitment. Expanded lecture series, small group meetings, social gatherings, and counseling services create a constant energy throughout the expanded facility. Their research library shot to the top of the list for "best off-grounds places to study." The Christian Study Center as a founding member of the Consortium for Christian Study Centers is a national model for similar ministries throughout the nation. Bruce served on the Board of Directors for three years.

Today the thriving Jewish and Christian student populations at UVA have dramatically expanded their services and ministries, programming made possible by facilities created through Bruce's invested leadership and sensitive design.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell's responsibility for the Brody Hillel Center and the Center for Christian Study at UVA. That responsibility included leadership as the project principal.

—Kurt Keesecker, Principal, brwarchitects | senior staff at brwarchitects during both projects



“Thousands of university students and community members have enjoyed a warm, inviting, light-filled space for study, energetic discussion, teaching, and gatherings. The luminous stair tower expresses our mission to be a light on hill for the students and neighborhoods around us. This building has helped us to embody that hope.

—Bill Wilder, Executive Director of the Center for Christian Study



Move-In Day Lunch at the Center for Christian Study



EXHIBIT
3.6

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL AMPLIFYING IMPACT



CHALLENGE

Congregation Beth Israel reached out to Bruce based on his reputation of guiding congregations through master planning processes. Their historic building, constrained by a tight urban site, was severely limiting the synagogue's ability to serve the surrounding community near the city's historic Court Square. They could no longer host large gatherings in their facility and Hebrew school programs were hosted by the Catholic Church across the street. Bruce's challenges were to understand how facilities are constraining the congregation's capacity and to facilitate consensus among members of the congregation with widely diverse agendas.

ROLE

'Should we stay, or should we go?' A move to the suburbs would offer generous options to expand their facilities. As Bruce led members through design alternatives, the team came across in book of Isaiah, a responsibility to **'Seek the Peace of the City, for in its peace, you too shall have peace.'** They decided to stay and expand their historic role as a landmark member of the city's historic center.

Bruce's process of working with congregations, created over the previous decade, was based on leading collaborative town hall meetings where members engage in

FIRM BRWARCHITECTS

DATE COMPLETED 1998
Security and site support 2021-2022

ROLE PRINCIPAL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

'A Secular Village: Temple Beth Israel'
INFORM magazine, 1999

vigorous conversations based on his conceptual designs. This process resulted in a program tripling the size of the existing facility. His award-winning design reinforces the prominence of the original 1882 Sanctuary, reflecting the congregation’s emphasis on their history. This sensitive location required working closely with city planners as the first new construction in the then, recently established Historic Design Control District.

Bruce’s design skills, his sensitivity to the Jewish community, his ability to shepherd communities through complex decisions, and his deep relationships within the historic community, generated an award-winning addition for Congregation Beth Israel.

IMPACT

Bruce’s creative and collaborative leadership expanded Congregation Beth Israel’s presence as a critical member of Charlottesville’s urban center. The expanded facilities allowed their critically-needed preschool to grow in place. Temple Beth hosts a wide variety of lectures, concerts, symposia, and community events as one of the city’s premier venues.

The congregation’s value for ‘Seeking the peace of the city’ unexpectedly guided them again when the August 12th Unite the Right Rally broke into violence. Their building became a refuge for residents seeking safety, confirming their decision to serve their community twenty years earlier.

Bruce’s design continues, after two and a half decades, to be the model for adding modern facilities to historic buildings within the Historic District.



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell’s responsibility for Temple Beth Israel. That responsibility included leadership as the project principal.

—Dan Brody, Building Committee, Congregation Beth Israel

“It is not easy to successfully lead an eclectic group of people through a complex project. Bruce is a master of the art.”

—Dan Brody, Building Committee, Congregation Beth Israel



AWARDS

1998 Award for Excellence in Architecture
AIA Virginia

1998 Award for Excellence in Architecture
AIA Central Virginia

1996 Preservation Honor Award
Alliance for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

1996 Excellence in Masonry Design
Virginia Masonry Council



EXHIBIT
3.7

**virginia model for
sustainability in
supportive housing**

'THE CROSSINGS AT 4TH & PRESTON' SUPPORTIVE SRO HOUSING

AMPLIFYING IMPACT

CHALLENGE

There are few options to find permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness who still struggle with mental health or addiction. Bruce's reputation working with low-income communities connected him with Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH), who began working with him to establish a new facility for 60 individuals within the Charlottesville urban center. The first challenge was finding a site close to necessary resources, adjoining welcoming neighborhoods, and suited to the unique requirements for formerly homeless residents. Bruce and VSH also faced a significant challenge in educating a skeptical public about the benefits of a 'Housing First' approach to homelessness. Additionally, any new building on a site so close to the downtown Charlottesville needed to meet demanding design standards integrating it into the surrounding context. The funding resources include the competitive Low Income Housing Tax Credits which encourage ambitious approaches to sustainability.

ROLE

Bruce identified and assessed alternative sites and prioritized how well they met the criteria. To build public support for the project, Bruce led a series of public meetings with neighbors, city staff and VSH leadership to open communication, identify concerns and reservations, and resolve

FIRM BRWARCHITECTS

COMPLETED 2012

ROLE PRINCIPAL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

'Charlottesville, Virginia Embraces Housing First to Tackle Regional Homelessness'

Department of Housing & Urban Development PD&R
Edge Magazine

community concerns. Bruce also assembled a robust team of consultants to increase the facility's sustainability.

First-hand insight is the most valuable tool to understand how residents experience a transition from homelessness into a supportive housing community. Bruce traveled statewide to listen to formerly homeless residents. He learned what resources were most important to them and how he and his team might improve the new facility they were designing. This led him to incorporate added resources within the facility to help their transitions from street life, engage more effectively with their support staff and connect with related resources near their new home. Finally, Bruce facilitated the process to obtain special entitlements and navigated the design review process.

IMPACT

The Crossings provides permanent supportive housing to 60 residents, significantly reducing the city's homeless population. In the ten years of operation Virginia Supportive Housing reports that 98% of residents have not returned to the streets. The site selection has provided accessible collaboration between The Crossings and other employment and housing resources nearby. The sustainability strategies set the standard for other VSH facilities throughout the state.

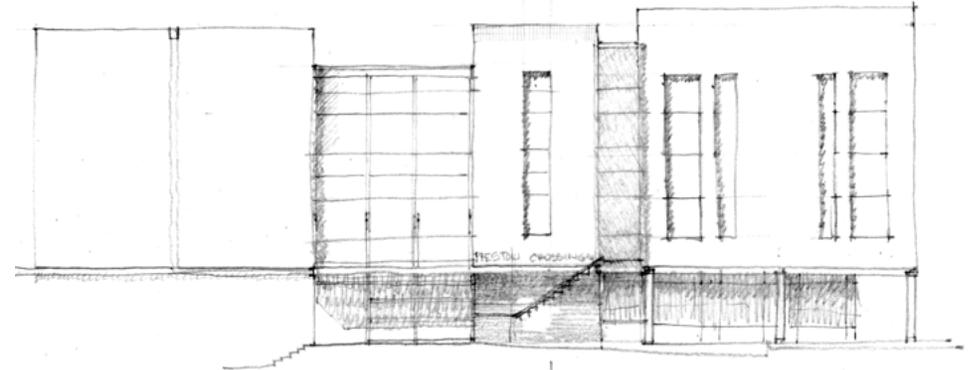
With Bruce's leadership The Governor awarded The Crossings as both the most outstanding development process for affordable housing and the most sustainable affordable multi-family housing project in Virginia.

Today, the cost of housing and the pandemic have exacerbated homelessness throughout the nation. Charlottesville is at the forefront of small cities addressing the need for affordable housing and reducing homelessness not by penalization but by providing housing. The success of the VSH team with Bruce's leadership at the Crossings paved the way for a second supportive housing facility currently in the design phase. This development, serving 80 individuals already, is supported with LIHTC funding, preparing to break ground in early 2024.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell's responsibility for The Crossings. That responsibility included leadership as the project principal.

—Kurt Keesecker, Principal, brwarchitects | Senior staff at brwarchitects during the project



“Bruce helped create a community where people can heal, belong, and be their best selves. He embraced the pursuit to end homelessness as a collaborator, committed to social change and improving the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.”

—Allison Bogdanovic, Executive Director, Virginia Supportive Housing

AWARDS

2012 Governor's Virginia Housing Award for Best Affordable Housing Energy Conservation Effort

2013 Multifamily Project of the Year
Earthcraft Virginia

2012 Best Green Residential Project
Virginia Sustainable Building Network

2011 Annual Planning Award for Outstanding Sustainable Development
The City of Charlottesville

2012 Honor Award for Design
AIA Central Virginia



A Single Room Occupancy Residence at The Crossings

EMERGING LEADERS IN ARCHITECTURE ACADEMY

TURN CIVIC VALUES INTO ACTION

CHALLENGE

A primary goal of AIA Virginia's Emerging Leaders in Architecture's (ELA) Academy is to instill an understanding that the best architects serve their communities in deeply meaningful ways.

Bruce's challenge in creating the day-long intensive first training session of each year's Academy is to establish this value as the foundation of their work for the rest of the year. Every fourth year, when the ELA class project is in Charlottesville, Bruce expands his challenge for the 16 top young architects to invest these characteristics in their locally-based project.

Bruce believes the civic role of architects is to do their work, both in and outside their practices, 'as a gift for others to flourish'. This is the foundation for his leadership track in the Emerging Leaders in Architecture Academy.

ROLE

Bruce guides each ELA class to form an ethical framework around community engagement values. He begins by asking:

What unique skills, talents and resources do architects have which most effectively contribute to our communities and culture?

Vigorous and deep discussions grow from this initial



ORGANIZATION AIA VIRGINIA

DATE 2011-PRESENT

ROLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SERVING
COMMUNITIES TRACK LEADER

question. Bruce uses a metaphor that the work architects do in the built environment is like a conductor guiding each orchestra member to contribute at the right moment, in the right way, for a common purpose. The task of leading a team of designers, engineers, public officials, and others is similar. The ability to not only design but lead, inspire, investigate, guide, and coordinate is what allows architects to accomplish more impactful community change beyond self-interest.

This theme is then developed in small group discussions in which Bruce asks the students to consider that it is how the segments of our communities connect and touch each other that define our civic character. Good connections make great communities and great cities. Bruce also invites architects from around the country who are serving as mayors and activists to share their experience and demonstrate how architecture careers can create flourishing communities.

IMPACT

Over 12 years, Bruce has shaped 200 of the brightest young architects as future leaders in the profession. They begin their careers with the values and tools they have used in their community-based project—each year in a different city across the state. Each year’s class presents their work to the community they have worked in, as well as at the annual AIA ArchEx East Conference.

ELA Academy alumni take Bruce’s challenge to heart and go on to practice careers broader than the boundaries of their jobs. ELA alumni have served as Planning Commissioners, Review Boards Members, leaders of volunteer organizations, architects for residents in marginalized communities, leaders of their local AIA chapters, as well as members of the Board of AIA Virginia and as Senior Vice President for Knowledge and Practice for AIA National.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell’s responsibility for leadership and involvement with the Emerging Leaders in Architecture Academy for AIA Virginia. That responsibility includes leadership of the Serving Communities track.

—Brian Frickie, FAIA, LEED AP, Principal, Kerns Group, Founder of the AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture Academy

“Bruce connected for me the powerful relationship between community organizing and the profession of architecture. He taught us to approach engagement work with the belief that community members are experts in what their community needs, and it is our responsibility to enable residents to have ownership and power in the design process.

Our ELA class took this to heart, building relationships with the community we were serving and creating tools for them to better advocate for their community’s needs.”

—Haley Owens, ELA 2021



THE ERWIN-RAMSEY FELLOWSHIP

TURN CIVIC VALUES INTO ACTION

CHALLENGE

The highest quality professional educations are, by necessity, broad 'light touch' experiences: internships, study abroad, design competitions, 'Saturday builds.' Bruce wants graduate students and higher level undergraduates to also learn to focus deeply on one area of interest to offer as a resource to the surrounding community in which they study. This inspires the Fellow to ally themselves with values of civic engagement, equity, justice, and affordable housing and contribute to a flourishing community.

ROLE

Bruce created the Erwin-Ramsey Fellowship with Partner Kurt Keesecker to "deepen architectural connections to the town where the firm has worked for 40 years." It is fully-compensated above a living wage and is a competitive application of proposed intensive research projects.

Bruce provides intensive mentorship to each Fellow including interview skills, group planning sessions, design critiques, community contacts, preparation for public speaking—and sharing lively dinners. Bruce encourages each Fellow to consider their capstone presentation as a gift offered to the community.

FIRM BRWARCHITECTS

DATE 2019-PRESENT

ROLE PRINCIPAL

IMPACT

Erwin-Ramsey Fellows focus their research on communities where they are deeply investing themselves in significant issues important to the surrounding neighborhood:

“The Erwin Ramsey Fellowship beautifully encapsulates Bruce’s ethos. Year after year, the Fellow’s idea blooms into impactful work in the community. The Fellowship’s capacity to drive change for marginalized communities and Bruce’s unwavering commitment to Charlottesville exemplify his role as a model citizen of the city.

Bruce’s grace, guidance, and wisdom have shaped my professional journey and also enriched me as a person.

With immense pride and gratitude, I carry Bruce’s influence forward, hoping to uplift others as he has done to me.”

—Taha Suhrawardy, 2020 Erwin-Ramsey Fellow

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of Bruce Wardell’s responsibility for the Erwin-Ramsey Fellowship. That responsibility included leadership as co-founder and principal-in-charge.

—Kurt Keesecker, Principal, brwarchitects.
Co-founded the Erwin-Ramsey Fellowship with Bruce



2019 AMANDA

Amanda Harlow created a development curriculum for churches whose missions align with affordable housing, homelessness and caring for aging populations.

Amanda’s research inspired Park Street Church to partner with a nonprofit developer to develop 60 low-income housing units for seniors. Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) expected 2024.



2020 TAHA

Taha Suhrawardy explored how urban agriculture contributes to land-use strategies reinforcing the wellbeing and food security of resident-led redevelopment projects.

Taha built on his Fellowship work by serving for two years on the Board of Cultivate Charlottesville, an urban agricultural/food justice nonprofit.



2021 GABRIEL

Gabriel Andrade explored psychological ownership over public spaces such as alleys, streets, tree canopies through a ‘catalog’ of everyday guerrilla interventions using commonly found objects.



2022 BRANDON

Brandon Eley engaged underserved youth and teen populations through the built environment, spending a substantial part of his fellowship working directly with Charlottesville teens.



2023 JO

Jo Blount developed a resident engagement ‘road map’ for rezoning and affordability. Her tool ensures the accountability of the City’s affordability goals, allowing community members to shape the development taking place around them.

Jo’s ‘road map’ is being used by PHAR (Public Housing Association of Residents) affordable housing advocates to hold the city accountable to its Affordable Housing commitments.



BARBARA BROWN WILSON, PHD

Title Asst. Professor of Urban & Environmental Planning, Director of the Center for Redress of Inequity through Community-Engaged Scholarship

Affiliation University of Virginia
Location Charlottesville, VA
Relationship with Bruce 6 years



KATIE SWENSON, ASSOC. AIA

Title Senior Principal
Firm MASS Design Group
Location Boston, MA
Relationship with Bruce 18 years



MARTHA TRUJILLO

Title Southwood Translator
Rehousing & Financial Empowerment Manager
Organization Habitat for Humanity
Location Charlottesville, VA
Relationship with Bruce 7 years



JUDITH A. KINNARD, FAIA

Title Professor of Architecture
Harvey-Wadsworth Chair of Landscape Urbanism
Affiliation Tulane University
Location New Orleans, LA
Relationship with Bruce 38 years



LORI S. GARRETT, FAIA

Title Senior Principal & President
Firm Glave & Holmes
Location Richmond, VA
Relationship with Bruce 38 years



W. DOUGLAS GILPIN, JR, FAIA

Title Architect, former Directing Partner at DGP Architects
Firm W. Douglas Gilpin, Jr. FAIA Architect, PLC
Location Charlottesville, VA
Relationship with Bruce 30 years



KATHLEEN M. GALVIN, FAIA, CNU-A

Title Architect, City Planner, former City Councilor
Firm Galvin Architects
Location Charlottesville, VA
Relationship with Bruce 37 years

“It’s not when we act out of civic obligation or charity, but rather when we offer our talents as gifts for others to flourish that we draw close to one another, finding transformation in our friendships, in our professions, in our communities, and in our culture.”
—Bruce Wardell, AIA