



LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE AND WRIGHT BUILDERS' NEWEST PROJECTS

As the Construction Manager for both the R.W. Kern Center at Hampshire College and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, a long time Amherst institution, these two new buildings on and adjacent to the main campus of Hampshire, aim to meet the requirements of the International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge. Wright Builders is pushing itself to the limits of environmentally conscious building practice, requiring an all-in commitment.

The Living Building Challenge (LBC) suggests that we're not in the process of slowing down or slightly retarding the advance of our decline. Humans have greater aspirations than that. This is a way to think about the built environment as a regenerative process. The built environment, like the human body, is regenerative. That's a very powerful idea to us, and it has a remarkable resonance with the Hampshire experience.

Jonathan believes that the Living Building Challenge will do for environmental design what Hampshire College has done for higher education to change the content and standards.

In mid-September, as part of our commitment to the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment possible today, Wright Builders, New England Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), the Hitchcock Center for the Environment (HCE) and Hampshire College hosted

2 days of intense LBC discussions and workshops with the intent of educating the public, Hampshire College students, Hitchcock members, and Wright Builders' subcontractors and vendors as to the significance of LBC building standards as related to the environment, building materials, and the design and construction process.

Additional sponsorship by the architects involved in the two projects made all the difference; Bruner/Cott architects and planners of Cambridge, and architect for Hampshire College's R. W. Kern Center, and designLab architects of Boston, the architect for HCE's new education center. Amanda Sturgeon, award winning architect and Executive Director of the International Living Future Institute shared her vast knowledge of LBC petals and imperatives, and provided an inspirational backdrop. Several hundred in attendance explored the importance of this worldwide building certification standard, advocacy tool and philosophy.

Over the next few issues of our Newsletter we'll write more about the seven LBC performance categories, known as Petals. They include: Place, Water, Energy, Health & Happiness, Materials, Equity and Beauty.

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R. W. Kern Center at
Hampshire College



Hitchcock Center for the
Environment – Amherst, MA

LBC Petals Continued:

Health and Happiness

Maximizing physical and psychological health and well being.

Petal Intent: The intent of the Health Petal is to focus on the major conditions that must be present to create robust, healthy spaces, rather than to address all of the potential ways that an interior environment could be compromised. Most buildings provide substandard conditions for health and productivity. There is a direct correlation between decreased comfort and increased environmental impacts, since solutions in the physical environment to improve well-being are often inefficient and wasteful.

Beauty

Celebrating design that creates transformative change

Petal Intent: The intent of the Beauty Petal is to recognize the need for beauty as a precursor to caring enough to preserve, conserve and serve the greater good. As a society we are often surrounded by ugly and inhumane physical environments. If we do not care for our homes, streets, offices and neighborhoods then why should we extend care outward to our farms, forests and fields? When we accept billboards, parking lots, freeways and strip malls as being aesthetically acceptable, in the same breath we accept clear-cuts, factory farms and strip mines.

WBI EVENTS

BuildingEnergy 15 (BE)

is the Northeast's signature gathering of professionals involved in sustainable practices.

Be a part of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's BE15, March 3-5, 2015 in Boston. (www.nesea.org/buildingenergy). Excerpts from our BE 14 presentation can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/88521210>

Hitchcock Center for the Environment – Wright Builders Green Building Tour

This year, the tour was held on November 16, and included 3 exemplary green building projects in the area. Beginning in Northampton at Village Hill, participants visited the first and largest “sustainable neighborhood” development in Massachusetts. From there they moved along to the new early childhood building at the Hartsbrook School in Hadley, which called for “an environmentally sensitive building that would help maintain the good health of its inhabitants and the planet”. Finally the tour finished in downtown Amherst at the newly remodeled Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS



Lovely home in Belchertown

This new home offers views to the west and expansive bright living spaces. Completed this past spring, the family has enjoyed its first snow fall. This 2,356 sq. ft. home has a HERS rating of 10.



Roomy Addition

This addition provides a new bright and open family living space, as well as an extension of their kitchen with a convenient new dining area. Auxiliary heat is provided by a gas powered stove, creating the perfect cozy space for the cold winter ahead.



Florence Bank, Hadley

This beautiful new building, designed by HAI Architecture, is the new home of Florence Bank. Situated conveniently on Route 9 in Hadley, setting a new higher standard for design on this commercial strip.



Interior renovations at River Valley Market

Designed by local architect Tom Douglas, and coordinated with the equipment suppliers of the market, this renovation begins a series of transformations to update the coop's equipment and service areas to a new standard of appearance and function, for customers and staff alike! Come see the newly renovated deli and seating area.

ONGOING PROJECTS

THE UPPER RIDGE AT VILLAGE HILL

Phase I – Greek Revival Townhomes

Two of these 4 beautiful 2, 3 & 4 bedroom townhomes are now being enjoyed by their new home owners. The remaining two are sold and will be occupied shortly. Sitting directly on Beech Tree Park, each of these ENERGY STAR home offers a private patio, garage parking and easy access to the downtowns of both Northampton and Easthampton. Phase III of The Upper Ridge is in planning stages now and will offer 4 more beautiful townhomes built to the same ENERGY STAR requirements and will be registered for LEED certification as well.



Phase II – Arts and Crafts Flats

Three of the 6 flats homes are under contract at this writing, with three available for June 2015 occupancy. All of these homes enjoy: designated under building parking garages, elevator accessible at all levels, a private balcony, high efficiency Mitsubishi minisplit heat pumps for heat and AC. These homes are ENERGY STAR compliant and registered for LEED certification.



Phase II - Craftsman Duplex

These new homes, currently under construction, offer deeded roof area for solar panels, a private yard, patio and garage, high efficiency gas heat, SEER 15+ AC, and are ENERGY STAR 3.0 compliant and registered for LEED certification.



Our 3 Bedroom Craftsman Duplex is available! Contact Goggins Real Estate at 413-586-7000



WBI EMPLOYEE PROFILE

TOM LUCIA Senior Project Manager



Tom brings a lifetime of commitment to thoughtful communication, careful planning, and skilled leadership to his work managing complicated projects for Wright Builders. His own personal commitment to high efficiency carbon neutral building is reflected in his restoration of his own home in Agawam, and

in projects he has completed over a 25 year career. Tom sets a high bar, and then with his typical self-deprecating smile, makes sure we all can get there too! Thanks Tom.



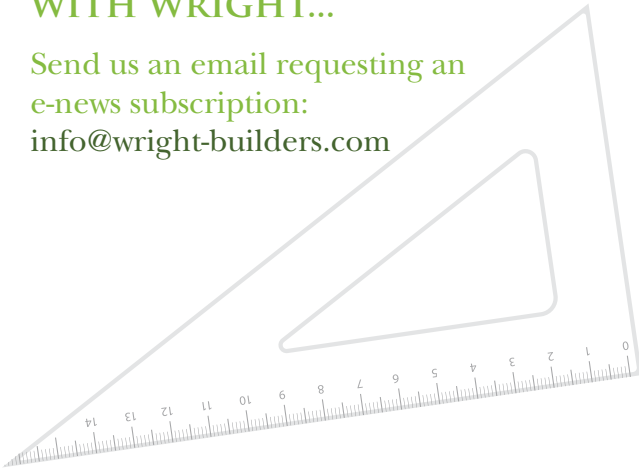
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FEATURED NON-PROFIT: NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER (NCMC)

Wright Builders has long admired and supported the mission and programs of the Northampton Community Music Center. Meg Kelsey Wright, a founder of the Center, has been a piano instructor there for over 20 years. Over time Wright Builders has partnered with NCMC and supported their efforts to build the center's community exposure, sponsored various events, and been fortunate to collaborate in the transformation of a 100 year old abandoned school building into a thriving, efficient community based institution. We appreciate all that NCMC does to keep music alive and thriving throughout the region! From the youngest child to retired adults, from the neophyte to the professional, from youth jazz bands to piano trios to some of the regions most loved singing groups, NCMC has it all, just for you!

According to Jason Trotta, the founders of NCMC first came together in 1986 to form the Northampton Community Music Center (NCMC), and it was out of a sense of urgency to continue providing the kind of music education to which their children had become accustomed growing up in the Northampton public schools. NCMC's early years were spent in a variety of locations but with the financial support of countless businesses and community members, as well as a long-term lease with the City of Northampton, NCMC was able to contract Wright Builders to renovate its current home in the historic So. Street School building. NCMC's enrollment now soars at over 800 students per year with programs ranging from Music Together™ for babies and toddlers, to private lessons for all ages in over 25 different instruments, to group classes and ensembles that bring together musically-compatible people of all ages.



Young musicians' practice session



Jason Trotta, Executive Director and
Heather Antonelli, Registrar

What's so special about an organization like NCMC is that it offers everyday people the opportunity to learn, practice and celebrate so many different palettes of musical expression in a nurturing, welcoming place where others are doing the same – and NCMC's scholarship program makes certain that these opportunities are within everyone's grasp. Strolling the halls of NCMC, you could hear a ukulele choir playing and singing Beatles tunes. In another room, a jazz ensemble improvising on some Duke Ellington, while upstairs, there's a group of little violinists all playing in unison. In the recital hall, our women's choir is raising the roof in three-part harmony. As a result, the extended family of the Northampton Community Music Center is spreading joy through music to every corner of our community. When will you come join our family?

Call 413-585-0001 or visit www.ncmc.net to learn more about the Northampton Community Music Center.