Keynote Speaker

Frank Harmon, FAIA, President of Frank Harmon Architect, designs sustainable buildings across the Southeast. His work engages pressing contemporary issues such as placelessness, sustainability, and the restoration of cities and nature.

His buildings are materially specific to their region, using hurricane-felled cypress and rock from local quarries, for example, to connect the structure to its landscape. The airy breezeways, outdoor living spaces, deep overhangs, and wide lawns embody the romanticism of the South while maintaining a distinguished modernism.

Mr. Harmon graduated from the Architectural Association in London and is a Professor-in-Practice at the NC State University College of Design. Frank Harmon Architect, based in Raleigh, has been named to Architect magazine’s “Top 50” list three times.

His recent project, NativePlaces.org, uses sketches and short essays to illustrate the value of looking closely at buildings and places. He is a member of Activate14, an AIANC outreach initiative to strengthen the civic role of architecture and design in our community.

Session Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Ray Calabro, FAIA, is Principal at Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. Mr. Calabro’s work emphasizes the relationship of a building to its surrounding landscape; he believes that architecture is a thoughtful response to the culture and spirit of each place. This vision and commitment is most clearly demonstrated by the award-winning Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor in Jackson, Wyoming. Mr. Calabro’s passion for architecture comes from his lifelong interest in drawing and design. A member of the firm since 1995, he leads Bohlin Cywinski Jackson’s publication efforts including the books Grand Teton: A National Park Building (2008), and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson: The Nature of Circumstance, (2010). Ray frequently speaks at regional, national and international design conferences, and serves as a juror and design critic at leading schools of architecture and design. He serves on the Board of Trustees of ARCADE, a Seattle-based non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring dialogue about design in the Northwest.

Ross Chapin, FAIA, is Principal of Ross Chapin Architects and is an author based on Whidbey Island, Washington. Mr. Chapin has gained notoriety for his ‘pocket neighborhoods’, which he defines as “groupings of nearby neighbors around a shared commons”. Over the last 15 years, he has designed and partnered in developing six pocket neighborhoods and has designed dozens of others for developers across the US, Canada and the UK. Many of these pioneering developments have received international media coverage, professional peer review and national design awards, including AIA Housing Committee Awards in 2005, 2007 and 2009.

Alan Durning, executive director, founded Northwest Environment Watch in 1993, which became Sightline Institute in 2006. Mr. Durning’s current topics of focus include carbon pricing and governance reform. He has also written in recent years about housing, parking, Making Sustainability Legal, car-less living, bike friendliness, electric bikes, and climate fairness. Durning has written or contributed to nine Sightline books, including Unlocking Home: Three Keys to Affordable Communities, Cascadia Scorecard 2007, Tax Shift, Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things, and the award-winning This Place on Earth: Home and Practice of Permanence. Prior to founding Sightline, Durning was a senior researcher at Worldwatch Institute. There, he studied the human dimensions of sustainability and wrote the award-winning book How Much Is Enough?, as well as chapters in seven State of the World reports and articles in hundreds of other publications. A sought-after speaker, he has lectured at the White House, major universities, and conferences on five continents. In addition to his passion for sustainability, Mr. Durning is a music fiend and a lover of outdoor pursuits, especially mountaineering and cycling.

Nils Finne, AIA, is a principal of the award-winning FINNE Architects, recognized as one of the best Seattle design firms. Raised in the United States and Norway, Mr. Finne established FINNE Architects in 1991, bringing a Scandinavian understanding of craft and landscape to the Pacific Northwest. In addition to architecture, Mr. Finne has been involved in the design and fabrication of more than 80 pieces of furniture, lighting and hardware, which are produced and marketed separately. Prior to founding FINNE Architects, Mr. Finne was a Senior Associate at Richard Meier and Partners, and served as Project Architect for the $350 million Getty Museum, part of the $1 billion Getty Center complex in Los Angeles. Mr. Finne has been practicing sustainable design for over 25 years, and is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Paul Hirzel, AIA, is Professor and Master of Architecture Graduate Coordinator at Washington State University (WSU). Mr. Hirzel’s academic emphasis at WSU has focused on the introduction of landscape significance into the architecture curriculum. An advocate for the inclusion/recognition of the “outside condition” in the building design solution, he has developed innovative strategies for site analysis and design. His site design course has won national awards from the American Institute of Architects: The AIA National Education Award, and the National Associated Collegiate Schools of Architecture: The ACSA Design Studio Award and has been featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Student work has been invited for exhibition at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, Washington and at the AIA National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He has been a lecturer at Cranbrook Academy of Arts, the Interdisciplinary Design Institute in Spokane, Washington, Texas A&M, Gonzaga University, Cornell University, and the University of Washington.

graypants is a team of problem solvers. Anchored in Seattle and Amsterdam, graypants’ bold creativity leads to diverse designs in products, architecture, and other beautiful objects around the world. Our work expands globally with collaborations and custom designs for leading companies worldwide. Founders Seth Grizzle and Jonathan Junker decided to further feed their creative appetites through product design and art exhibits. In 2007, “graypants” was scribbled onto a piece of paper and the new company’s flagship line of pendant lights made entirely of repurposed corrugated cardboard – scraplights – was promptly introduced. Scraplights quickly became a prime example of the principles that graypants embodies to this day – responsible design, responsible materials, responsible production... and having fun. graypants continues to expand its custom portfolio from architectural installations to public artworks, and has numerous product lines sold throughout the world. The range of their work is comprehensive, covering residential and commercial lighting, furniture, packaging designs, and architecture. In November of 2013, graypants was awarded AIA Seattle’s Award of Honor for their debut architecture project, Garage.

For more information on the 2015 Residential Design Forum, please visit: aiaseattle.org/event/2015-residential-design-forum
2015 Residential Design Forum: *Unwrapping the Design Process*
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015  |  SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY - CENTRAL BRANCH – THE WASHINGTON MUTUAL FOUNDATION ROOM
* all sessions/speakers subject to change

David Neiman, AIA, founded the Neiman Taber in 2000, specializing in single family and multi-family housing uniquely adapted to the Northwest climate. Mr. Neiman’s work is characterized by a particular focus on the design of homes that are authentic to their time and place, and configured to help build community among residents. He is an active participant in development of public policy that governs neighborhood scale land use and zoning. He advocates for flexible land use policy that incentivizes innovation, quality design, and configuration that meets the needs of all citizens. Before establishing his own practice in 2000, Mr. Neiman worked at the Seattle office of NBBJ, specializing in large-scale public projects such as Safeco Field and the University of Washington Bothell Campus.

Steven Rainville, AIA, has been a member of Olson Kundig Architects since 1996, becoming a principal in 2010. He takes pride in being a generalist architect, with a strong interest in building construction, architectural technologies, research and development with a focus on high performance craft. Mr. Rainville has been involved with the design and management of a series of well-recognized projects, including Chicken Point Cabin, Outpost – both of which have received National AIA Honor Awards, Olson Kundig Architects’ Offices, The Sounders Ninety, and the WSU Visitor Center. Among other projects, Steven is currently working on the TBAILEY Offices, a project in a delicate marine environment which utilizes the company’s product — pipes used in wind turbine towers — for sustainable strategies and as building components. Projects on which Mr. Rainville has worked have been published in dozens of national and international publications including the New York Times, Architectural Record, and the Wall Street Journal. They have also appeared in books including Tom Kundig: Houses (Princeton Architectural Press, 2006) and The Good Office: Green Design on the Cutting Edge (Collins Design, 2008). Several of those projects have received national, regional and local awards from AIA, as well as an American Architecture Award from the Chicago Athenaeum.

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