

12 January 2015



ARCHITECTURE
THE COLLEGE of
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN // K-STATE

archinfo

arch_weekly note

Welcome back everyone. We took a short hiatus over the break to hopefully, just like everyone else, recharge our batteries for what will be a historic semester. What do you mean, historic? Well, believe it or not, this will be our last semester in the old Seaton. There are millions of memories floating around Seaton east and Seaton Court that will never be replaced, but the beauty of architecture is that its site always remains to rebuild old and build new memories. We are in a lucky time to actually have the opportunity to see the new layers added to the old and hold both in our experience.

Tomorrow, the faculty will meet for our spring retreat to do our twice annual reflection on our program as we continually try to offer the best architectural education. I believe this remains absolutely true regardless of what some rankings may say. That fact that we just placed 50 interns into offices around the country is testament.

For students, don't forget, classes really do start next Tuesday.

Lastly, I am sad to announce that the office is losing a welcoming, friendly and awesome staff member. Friday is Stephanie Whitis's last day with us as she is leaving for one of those southern states, Georgia. It has been great to have her around and we will miss her efficiency and of course, her dry humor. Please wish her well.

Please be safe in your travels back to Manhattan. We saved a little snow for you. You're welcome.

Best,

Matthew Knox AIA
Professor and Department Head

arch_people

Professors Don Watts and Carol Watts will retire at the end of this semester

Name: Don Watts
Professor of Architecture

Where did you grow up?:
In several small towns in Nebraska.

Where did you go to school?:
My B.Arch was from the University of Nebraska and my M.Arch was from the University of California, Berkeley.

How long have you been teaching at K-State?:
This spring I will be completing my 31st year of teaching at Kansas State. Prior to K-State, I taught at U.T. Austin, Texas Tech, Yarmouk University in Jordan and Kabul University in Afghanistan.

What is the best part of your job?:
I most enjoy the exchange of ideas with students and faculty.

What is your fondest memory of Seaton?:
Seeing the extensive display of great student work most evident at accreditation visits.

As a child you dreamed of being what?:
I wanted to be an architect from an early age and enjoyed building things such as tree houses, forts and caves. Both my father and grandfather had workshops in their garages and I was free to use the tools.

Who is your favorite Architect?:
I have no single favorite architect and sometimes study a design that is disturbing to me. By doing so, the prejudice is reversed and I sometimes discover good things about such a design and gain a new respect for the work. I learned long ago to cherish visiting a work of architecture to experience it first hand. This applies to disturbing work as well. The best story is experiencing the work of Antonio Gaudi. Modernist history presented him as an eccentric that obviously did not fit the modernist paradigm. Sitting in Parc Guell in Barcelona, his profound message rang loud and clear.

Can you tell us about your personal life?:
Growing up in Nebraska was an incentive to see the rest of the world. I remember first seeing the Pacific Ocean as a sophomore in college and saying to myself, yes, it really does exist. I enjoy taking the road less traveled and this started early when I served in the Peace Corps in Afghanistan. Upon completion of Peace Corps, I traveled overland from Kabul to Amsterdam, shooting 50 rolls of film and visiting most of the famous buildings portrayed in architectural history.

What do you do for fun?:
Besides continuing to visit intriguing places such as Machu Picchu in Peru, Leptis Magna in Libya, St.Catherine's in the Sinai, Egypt, Baalbek in Lebanon and Mostar in Bosnia. My wife, Professor Carol Martin Watts, and I are enjoying the ongoing design of a new house for aging in place.

What is one strange fact about you?:
The sunrise is my favorite time of the day. All nighters never agreed with my biorhythm.



What will you miss most after retirement?:
All my friends in Manhattan.

arch_department announcements

Saturday, January 17th, is an APDesign Career Exploration Day. There will be 100+ families touring Seaton during the morning hours, so if you're in the building give them a warm smile.

The department office will post studio assignments and begin handing out studio keys at noon in Seaton 211. Students can move into their studios once picking up their key, unless otherwise noted.

Stephen Kieran's Ekdahl Lecture is *postponed* and was originally scheduled for February 4th. We are currently trying to find an alternate date this spring.

The deadline to apply for scholarships for 2015-2016 is February 1st. Visit this K-State Financial Aid page to apply: <http://www.k-state.edu/sfa/scholarships/>

Current third year students, if you are planning to study abroad, go on internship or attend KCDC next year, please be reminded that applications are due February 6th. Visit this link for the application: <http://apdesign.k-state.edu/current-students/activities/OSAppMaterials.html>

The All College Forum is Friday, January 23rd, at 10:00 am in Forum Hall. Information on the new building's schematic design will be provided, so be sure and attend.

New York City Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, PP, RTPPI (hon.) will be coming to Kansas State University to speak as part of the Martin Luther King Observance Week. Commissioner Silver's lecture will kick off the spring 2015 College of Architecture, Planning & Design's Distinguished Lecture Series. Commissioner Silver will deliver his lecture titled "Planning in the 21st Century - What's Next?" on January 20th at 4:00 pm in the K-State Union Forum Hall.

The spring architecture faculty retreat is tomorrow, January 13th, from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm in 201 of the Leadership Studies Building.

arch_upcoming events

JANUARY

13 Spring faculty retreat from 11.30 am to 4.30 pm in 201 Leadership Studies Building

16 Studio assignments posted and keys handed out at 12.00 pm

17 APD Career Exploration Day in Seaton

19 University Holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

20 First day of classes

20 Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, PP, RTPPI MLK lecture in Forum Hall at 4PM

29 Matt Urbanski's Ekdahl Lecture at 4PM in the Little Theatre
First year meeting at 7:30 pm in Seaton 63

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