



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 1. BIOGRAPHY AND NOMINATION

Nomination Letter: Terry Welker, FAIA  
Component Letter: Aleks Daskalov, AIA

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leadership and Service in the Profession and Community  
Academic Involvement and Juries  
Presentations  
Publications and Press  
Awards  
Significant Projects  
Exhibitions

### 3. EXHIBITS

- 3.1 AIA Columbus Fellowship Development
- 3.2 Fellowship Development Presentation  
*Shaping Your Career Towards Fellowship*  
*Ruth's Rules*
- 3.3 Young Architects Award + ARCHway
- 3.4 CFAD + Camp Architecture
- 3.5 Foundations for Employee Growth  
Perkins & Will  
Women in Architecture
- 3.6 Italian Village Architecture

### 4. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Yanitza Brongers-Marrero, AIA  
Robert Loversidge, FAIA  
Robert Maschke, FAIA  
Carole Olshavsky, FAIA  
Douglas Steidl, FAIA  
Steven Turckes, FAIA, ALEP, LEED, AP



“Once you’ve been a teacher, you can’t **not** teach. You’re a teacher for your whole life.”

*Ruth Gless, FAIA*

## RUTH M. GLESS, FAIA

Throughout her career Ruth M. Gless, FAIA has provided strong leadership, guidance, and service in mentoring young architects, fellow professionals, and communities. An award-winning design architect for over forty years, Gless spent the early part of her working life as a teacher of English, an artist, and a member of two internationally recognized firms. In 1996 she joined her spouse in partnership as managing principal of Lincoln Street Studio in Columbus.

**Advancing Fellowship** – As chair of the AIA Columbus Fellows, she guides and mentors Fellowship Candidates. Under her leadership eleven candidates have been elevated and have received national recognition since 2017. The Columbus Fellowship Development Program, which she initiated, establishes a process for identifying and mentoring candidates. She leads a well-organized, rigorous process which allows candidates to reflect on their career contributions and to shape a Fellowship submission. Ruth has developed three guiding documents which are used to replicate the process in components across the region and nationally: The **AIA Columbus Fellowship Development Program Process Description**, **Ruth's Rules**, and **Shaping your Career Towards Leadership and Fellowship**. The Young Architects Award Committee – new in 2021 – is an out-growth of the **Fellowship Development Program**. Ruth assisted both recent Ohio award-winners and looks forward to assisting other rising leaders to submit for the award.

**Community of Architects** – Ruth participates actively in the community of architects, rising to AIA Columbus President and serving six years on the AIA Ohio Board. She chaired the task force to create the Center for Architecture and Design, initiated and chaired panels and exhibits on women in architecture, and has supported initiatives to diversify the profession through programs, presentations, and seminars. In 2019 she received the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

**Community Advocacy** – As a leader of Lincoln Street Studio Architects, Ruth works with her community to elevate awareness of the importance of architecture and planning. Through public agencies like the Italian Village Commission; and through project work for clients, she develops respect for the impact of architecture on the community and the environment. As President of the Neighborhood Design Center, she re-vamped its mission so that architecture students might engage in planning for Columbus neighborhoods and central Ohio jurisdictions. As President of the Center for Architecture and Design, she established Camp Architecture to introduce children and their parents to the multiple disciplines of architecture.

**Practice** – Always teacher at heart, Ruth lives to see others flourish, a principle that has guided her entire professional life. Consequently, she has continually worked to develop young architects. In the corporate world of Perkins&Will, she defined the staff development and project delivery processes and spearheaded re-formulation of the professional development programs. As a principal at NBBJ, she was a role model for women. In her own community-based practice she incorporated staff education as an integral part of a collaborative studio environment. In short, she has mentored a generation of architects, particularly women, instilling the value of excellence, community engagement, and leadership.

As Ruth says, “Once you’ve been a teacher, you can’t not teach. You’re a teacher for your whole life.” For almost forty years, Ruth Gless, FAIA has been a teacher, a designer, a leader, and an advocate for the profession. At this stage in her career, mentorship is the thing that most matters to her. Helping architects to reach their full potential is the reward, and the obligation, of a work life well lived.



June 3, 2021

AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Ste. 120  
Worthington, OH 43085

Subject: Nomination of **Ruth M. Gless, FAIA** – Candidate for the AIA Ohio Gold Medal

Dear AIA Ohio Awards Jury,

Teacher, mentor, community activist, advocate, artist, design architect, leader, trailblazer, role model, Fellow. These are all terms that I use to describe my dear friend Ruth M. Gless, FAIA whom I heartily nominate for the AIA Gold Medal.

I first met Ruth in 2008 when I was AIA Ohio President and she was in leadership at AIA Columbus. The AIA brought us together as fast friends and 8 years later we were classmates elevated to the College of Fellows. She was elevated because of her distinct ability to apply the skills of a superb educator and mentor to large firm management, client education, and community activism. Ruth was the first female architect principle at NBBJ, where she served as a role model for peers on a national scale. Later as the managing principle at Lincoln Street Studio she mentored and educated architects who transported her methodologies to over thirty firms. She has influenced a generation of architects across the nation, leading a number of them to achieve Fellowship. She's still doing this today as chair of the AIA Columbus Fellows Committee.

Lately, I've learned a lot more about how she teaches as Ruth has inspired Tim Hawk, FAIA and me as artists. Together we have traveled almost 4000 miles over the past 12 pandemic months to small towns all over Ohio, to follow Ruth's lead on her plein air painting adventures. I figured out that her secret to success is to show and teach people how find beauty in architecture, small urban places and even rural industrial granaries. You learn a lot when you stare at a building or place for four hours.

Perhaps more importantly, I've also figured out that Ruth's real talent is that she teaches people that to know and understand beauty in architecture, they must first find beauty in themselves. It's no wonder she's known as a world class mentor. It's for these reasons I nominate Ruth M. Gless, FAIA for the distinguished honor of the AIA Ohio Gold medal.

Sincerely,

Terry Welker, FAIA  
Chief Building Official, City of Kettering  
AIA Ohio Valley Region Councilor, AIA Strategic Council



AIA Ohio  
Attn: AIA Ohio Awards Committee  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Ste 120  
Worthington, OH 43085

June 1, 2021

Dear Awards Committee,

I take great pleasure in nominating Ruth Gless, FAIA for the 2021 Gold Medal Honor Award. Ruth is an extraordinary leader who has devoted much of her career to advancing other architects. She is a trailblazer in her own right, advancing the boundaries of design, fiercely advocating for what she believes is right, and continually pushing us to be our very best.

Always the teacher, Ruth is keenly interested in developing talent- especially young and underrepresented architects. In 2018, Ruth spearheaded the ARCHway program—a program that connects emerging professionals with established firm leaders. ARCHway is a hybrid professional development program combining mentorship and leadership development. Mentorship occurs through groups which allows for both traditional mentorship and reverse mentoring. The program was selected for a 2018 Emerging Professionals Component grant from the AIA College of Fellows. Heading into its third iteration, the program has had over 60 participants, many of whom are now in leadership roles within their firms and with AIA Columbus. Ruth continues to be a driving force for the program.

Mentorship is not just for those new to the profession. Ruth chairs the AIA Columbus Fellows Committee where she works tirelessly to help advance local architects to Fellowship. Ruth has developed a methodology for attaining Fellowship- something she shares with other candidates and Chapters across the country. The critical pieces to the methodology are identifying and mentoring future candidates five to ten years away from Fellowship, coaching prospective candidates who may be ready for Fellowship, and mentoring current candidates toward successful submission.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Ruth's passion for empowering women. Ruth is a role model and mentor to women in architecture, helping them shape their careers and leadership skills and celebrating their successes. She served as one of AIA Columbus' first female presidents, and is constantly encouraging other women to step up and make their voices heard. In 2015, Ruth organized the OVR Women In Architecture exhibit, an exhibit that is still used today at the Center for Architecture and Design in Columbus.

The above are a small sample of Ruth's accomplishments. For decades she has molded and influenced our Chapter, and we would not be the same without her. Her leadership and guidance continues to make AIA Columbus stronger and more equitable. I cannot think of a person who is more deserving of this award than Ruth Gless, FAIA.

Sincerely,

Aleksandr S. Daskalov, AIA  
2021 AIA Columbus President

 **AIA COLUMBUS**

Ruth has served AIA Columbus in numerous capacities since 2003.

- 2019-present **Senior Advisor to the Board**
- 2017-present **Chair, Columbus Fellows Committee**
- 2012 **Past President and Liaison to CFAD Board**
- 2011 **President, AIA Columbus**
  - Initiated Design in the Midwest and the Midwestern City, a series of lectures focusing on sustainability and regional urban issues.
  - Led the Chapter to be among the first to offer AIA+2030 Professional Series on Sustainability.
- 2010 **President Elect, AIA Columbus**

Selected the next year's Continuing Education programs and speakers with diversity as a priority. Of the speakers, all save one were women.
- 2009 **Treasurer, AIA Columbus**
- 2008 **Secretary, AIA Columbus**
- 2008-09 **Chair, Strategic Planning and Implementation Task Force, Center for Architecture and Design**
- 2005-07 **Director, AIA Columbus**
  - Liaison to the Knowlton School of Architecture, the AIA Student Association and to the student Associate AIA Columbus.
  - Coordinated Fellows' committee student awards program.
- 2003-2005 **Chair, AIA Columbus – Committee on Design**
  - Codified first directives for juries of the Chapter's design award to establish consistency in the awards process.
  - Selected a jury chair each year for design excellence and sustainability.
  - Required for the first time that the jury chair present a lecture on the awards process and critique of the work as part of the awards ceremony.

 **AIA OHIO**

As much as she appreciated participating in the statewide collaboration and the opportunities to be a voice for equity and diversity, Ruth stepped down from the AIA Ohio Board after 2019, her term complete. She believed strongly in lifting up younger members of the Columbus chapter to positions of leadership in the profession. She is pleased that John Meghan, AIA has stepped up to leadership and is now a member of the AIA Ohio Executive Committee, and that Sara Boyer, AIA is able to serve as Alternate Director.

- 2017-2019 **Director**
- 2014-2016 **Alternate Director**

 **NATIONAL AIA**

- 2008-2012 **AIA Grassroots National Lobby** on Capitol Hill Ohio Congressional Representatives



*“Our purpose is to educate our clients about things they don't know about architecture, to listen to them and fulfill their desires, and at the same time teach them how something could be better. And if we do that well, we will produce generations of people who will demand great design in all things.”*

*Ruth Gless – on the opening video at National AIA Convention in 2014*



**CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN**

In 2010, AIA Columbus expanded its Architecture Foundation to create a multi-disciplinary Columbus Center for Architecture and Design. The Center's programs engage the public in discourse concerning architecture, the urban environment, and design. Elevating public consciousness of design, and bringing recognition to Columbus nationally as a “Center of Design.” Ruth led the Planning Task Force which:

- Engaged allied professionals and articulated the Center's multi-disciplinary mission.
- Forged transitional agreements between CFAD and AIA Columbus regarding finance and space-sharing.
- Recruited board members – architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, graphic design, and city planning.
- Formed fund-raising teams.
- Defined community education programs – including Design Talks, Bike Tours, Exhibitions, Design Weeks, **and** Camp Architecture - a perennial favorite.

- 2014 **Board Chair**
- 2013 **Secretary**
- 2012-15 **Board Member**
- 2008-09 **Chair, Strategic Planning and Implementation Task Force**





**NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER**

The Neighborhood Design Center exemplifies both education and community service. The City of Columbus and The Ohio State University, jointly founded (1982) and provided funding so that it might employ students to provide design services in decaying neighborhoods toward stimulating economic redevelopment.

When Gless joined the Board in 2004, The NDC had suffered funding cuts, and an aimless mission produced ineffectual outcomes. Gless led the planning team which redefined the funding strategies and expanded the client base to include regional jurisdictions and fee-based projects. Today the Design Center flourishes.

- 2010-2014 **Past President and Advisory Committee**
- 2008-2009 **President**
- 2008 **Chair, Strategic Planning Task Force**
- 2006-2007 **Vice President**
- 2004-2005 **Board Member**



**ITALIAN VILLAGE COMMISSION**

The Italian Village Commission is a public review board that controls design of structures and initial zoning requests in an urban neighborhood just north of downtown Columbus, Ohio. Ruth's influence touched the entire neighborhood as she:

- Shaped the neighborhood through a rigorous approvals process.
- Guided the Board toward a rigorous approvals process taught applicants the principles of contextual relationships and the value of modern design.
- Taught applicants the importance of contextual relationships.
- Taught applicants the principles of contextual design and the value of modern design.
- Worked toward changes in design guidelines.

Italian Village now accepts modern design. *Woo Hoo!*

- 1999-2001 **Board Member**

**1000 FRIENDS OF CENTRAL OHIO**

1000 Friends is a nationally net-worked advocacy no-profit dedicated to smart growth planning and public transit. Columbus gathered an offspring in 2003 to support public transit locally. The group offered public education and advocacy programs:

- Darby Creek preservation initiatives
- Monthly breakfasts in support of streetcars
- Light rail advocacy
- Columbus to Chicago rail link advocacy
- Bus maps

1000 Friends set the stage for Transit Columbus and increased advocacy for sustainable transit options. Columbus now offers:

- Bike share locations
- Car share locations
- C-Bus free city circulator bus

- 2008 **President**
- 2003-08 **Founding Board Member**



ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT AND JURIES



TEACHING



1980 Adjunct Professor, College of Architecture, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC



1977-79 Teaching Assistant, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

1973-75 Classroom Teacher, Hunterdon Central HS, Flemington NJ – English literature, composition



VISITING CRITIC

2004-2020 The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH



1993-2001 University of Illinois, Urbana, IL



1980-1990 The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

1980-1990 Cornell University in Washington, DC

1980-1990 University of Maryland, College Park, MD

DESIGN AWARDS JURIES

- 2020  AIA Western Mountain States
- 2019  AIA Maryland – Chair
- 2014 The James B. Recchie Award, Columbus, OH
- 2010  AIA Rochester
- 2009  AIA Michigan
- 2008  AIA Buffalo
- 2008 ASLA Ohio
- 1994  AIA Milwaukee

PRESENTATIONS

- 2020  **Shaping Your Career Toward Leadership and Fellowship**  
written and presented with Jack Bialosky, FAIA, Robert Maschke, FAIA, and illustrated by Hallie Crouch, Assoc. AIA Kent State University, Kent, OH
- 2020  **Shaping Your Career Toward Leadership and Fellowship**  
Ruth with AIA NEO Fellows  
Lorain County Community College, Elyria, OH
- 2019  **Shaping Your Career Toward Leadership and Fellowship**  
AIA Columbus Chapter, Columbus, OH
- 2019  **Shaping Your Career Toward Leadership and Fellowship**  
AIA OVR, Cincinnati, OH
- 2016  **Demystifying Fellowship**  
AIA Kentucky, panel leader – Jud Kline, FAIA, Lexington, KY
- 2015  **Women in Architecture, It's not Just About the Glass Ceiling**  
AIA Ohio Valley Regional Convention, Panel Leader, Columbus, OH
- 2015  **Introduction to AIA, College of Creative Arts**  
Dept. of Architecture and Interior Design, Miami of Ohio, Oxford, OH
- 2015 **Urban Landscapes Gallery Talk**  
Discussing Gless's paintings with visiting school children  
Riffe Gallery Show, Ohio Arts Council, Columbus, OH
- 2014 **Jury Comments**  
James B. Recchie Award Presentation, Columbus, OH
- 2011  **Design in the Midwest and the Midwestern City**  
AIA Columbus, Seven lectures
- 1998  **The Whole Building as a Laboratory**  
AIA / SCUP National Conference on Architecture in Education  
Vancouver, BC
- 1998 **Asset-Based Rehab**  
National Conference of the Association of University Related Research Parks, in Monterey, CA, with John Schade of Strategic Alliances, Milwaukee, WI

- 1997 **Asset-Based Rehab**  
National Conference of the Association of University Related Research Parks, in Philadelphia, with John Schade of Strategic Alliances, Milwaukee, WI
- 1996 **Content and Connectivity: The Challenges for Space, Services and Systems Planning in a Digitally Integrated Learning Environment**  
National Conference of SCUP – with Charles Cassell of Earl Walls and Mark Valenti of Sextant Group – Washington, DC
- 1995 **The Classroom of the Future is Already a Thing of the Past**  
Ohio Conference of College and University Planning, Cincinnati, OH
- 1995 **The Team Approach to Architectural Design**  
Association of Staff and Faculty Women  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1994 **The Learning Community**  
National Association of School Administrators, National Conference in San Francisco  
with Ralph Johnson, Supt. of Schools,  
Plain Local Schools, New Albany OH, San Francisco CA
- 1994 **The Team Approach to Architectural Design**  
School of Architecture, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- 1994 **Restructuring the Small High School**  
North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools,  
with Jim woods of Perkins & Will
- 1993  **The Keys to a Good Job Interview** Panel Discussion  
AIA National Convention, Chicago, IL



**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS**

- 2014 "Local Architect Appointed Chair of Non-Profit." Marten, Margaret. Short North Gazette, March/April, 2014
- 2013 "Eye-Catching House Gets Company." Weiker, Jim. Columbus Dispatch, November 17, 2013.
- 2012 "Sliver of Land along I-670 Sprouts House." Ball, Brian R. Business First, October 19, 2012.
- 2012 "Modern Collaboration." Rogers, Jenny. Columbus Dispatch, September 2, 2012.
- 2012 "Clever Design Saves Challenging Lot along I-670." Weiker, Jim. Columbus Dispatch," February 12, 2012.
- 2012 "Modern Collaboration." Rogers, Jenny. Columbus Monthly, February, 2012.
- 2011 "AIA Launches 2030 Challenge to Reduce Carbon Footprint." Leonard, Martha. Business First, September 2, 2011.
- 2010 "The Architect's Guide to Small Firm Management, Making Chaos Work for Your Small Firm." Klein, Rena M., FAIA. John Wiley & Sons, 2010.
- 2010 "COTA is on the Brink of Living Up to its Name." Gless, Ruth M., AIA. Columbus Dispatch, March 23, 2010.
- 2007 "Metro High Converts Offices to Living Laboratory for Open Learning." Rawdon, Scott. Business First, October 8, 2007.
- 2006 "Blend of Public, Private Housing a Winning Mix for Development." Gerbolys, Debbie. Columbus Dispatch, October 28, 2006.
- 2006 Builder. Awards Issue, featuring New Village Place, May, 2006.
- 2005 Builder. Awards Issue, featuring Grumman Porch, May, 2005.
- 2004 "Lincoln Street Gains a Piece of Lorain Tech Incubator Project." Ball, Brian R. Business First, April 5, 2004.
- 2003 "New Condos Downtown: Brunson Rehab Tab \$4M." Ball Brian R. Business First, February 23, 2003.
- 2003 "Incubator of the Year," National Business Incubation Association." Whaley, Randall M. <www.nbia.org/success\_stories/awards/2003>
- 2002 "Sleek Stylings: Architect Gets SciTech Employees to Take Note of New Space." Murray, Lori B. Business First, December 2, 2002.
- 2002 "Amazing Houses." HGTV. Lincoln Street Studio and Residence featured
- 2001 "Renzo Piano, The 2001 Wexner Prize Winner Speaks to Two Architects on the lessons of civic responsibility." Gless, Ruth M., AIA and Elmer, Frank L., FAIA. Dialogue, July-August, 2001.
- 2001 "Hatching Tech Space: With Incubator's Expansion Done, Focus Turns to Growth." Newpoff, Laura. Business First, December 14, 2001.
- 2000 "Research Park to be Tech Mecca." Higgins, Martin. The Lantern, July 16, 2000.
- 1999 "Efficiency by Design: Creative Use of Work Space Helps Companies Build on Productivity." Williams, Brian. Columbus Dispatch, September 27, 1999.
- 1999 "Making an Urban Statement, A New Village Plan for Channahon." Collyer, Stanley. Competitions, Winter, 1998/1999.
- 1998 "When Architects Dream." Paprocki, Sherry. Columbus Monthly, January, 1998.
- 1998 "Urban town center to grow out of farm fields of rural Illinois." Williams, Brian. Columbus Dispatch, April 29, 1998.
- 1996 Gless moves to Columbus – Business First
- 1991 "Women in Architecture Firms," featuring Ruth M. Gless, AIA. Architecture, October, 1991.



**AIA AWARDS**

- 2013 AIA National Excellence Award  
Camp Architecture  
Columbus, Oh
  - 2008 AIA Columbus Honor Award  
EIC (Entrepreneurship Innovation Center),  
Lorain County Community College, Lorain, OH
  - 2005 AIA Columbus Honor Award  
Grumman Porch, Columbus, OH
  - 2005 AIA Ohio Merit Award  
New Village Homes, Columbus, OH
  - 2003 AIA Ohio Design Award  
Business Technology Center, Columbus, OH
  - 2002 AIA Columbus Honor Award  
Business Technology Center, Columbus, OH
  - 2001 AIA Columbus Honor Award  
Science Village, Columbus, OH
  - 2001 AIA Columbus Merit Award  
Innovation Center, now Entrotech, Inc., Columbus, OH
  - 2000 AIA Columbus Honor Award  
Lincoln Street Studio, Columbus, OH
  - 1998 AIA Ohio Merit Award  
Lincoln Street Studio, Columbus, OH
- AWARDS**
- 2006 James B. Recchie Award  
New Village Homes, Columbus, OH
  - 2005 Builder's Choice Design & Planning Award  
Grand Award  
Special Focus Award  
Grumman Porch, Columbus, OH
  - 2005 Associated Builders and Contractors, Award of Excellence  
John Glenn Institute, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
  - 2005 Builder's Choice Design & Planning Award  
Grand Award  
New Village Homes, Columbus, OH
  - 1998 First Award, International Competition  
Village Center for Channahon, IL
  - 1998 First Award Outstanding Use of Brick in Architectural Design  
Masonry Institute  
Mount Vernon College Library, Washington, DC





**Soldier Houses**  
Columbus, OH  
Lead Designer



**50-52 Brickel Street**  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**Hollenbeck-Bayley Creative Arts and Conference Center**  
Clark State Community College  
Springfield, OH  
Principal in Charge



**SMART Commercialization Center**  
Lorain County Community College  
Elyria, OH  
Lead Designer  
*LEED Silver*



**Phi Kappa Psi**  
Historic Renovation and Restoration  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**Triangle Houses**  
Columbus, OH  
Lead Designer



**Ohio 4-H Center**  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge  
*LEED Certified*



**EIC Innovation Center**  
Lorain County Community College  
Elyria, OH  
Principal in Charge  
*LEED Silver*



**Grumman Porch**  
Columbus, OH  
Lead Designer



**Metro High School**  
Education Council  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**The Wellington School Dining Hall**  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**Ohio Historic National Road Design Handbook**  
Preservation and Rehabilitation Guidelines  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
Principal in Charge



**New Village Houses**  
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**McCracken Electrical Substation**  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**John Glenn Institute**  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**Micro MD Lab**  
Science and Technology  
Campus Corporation  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**The Business Technology Center**  
Science and Technology  
Campus Corporation  
Columbus, OH  
Lead Designer



**Nanotech West (Science Village)**  
Science and Technology  
Campus Corporation  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**Lincoln Street Studio**  
Office and Studio  
Columbus, OH  
Principal in Charge



**College Conservatory of Music**  
University of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, OH  
Principal in Charge



**New Albany High School and New Albany Elementary School and Master Plan**  
New Albany, OH  
Lead Designer



**Chelsea High School**  
Chelsea, MA  
Senior Designer



**Research Laboratory**  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, IL  
Senior Designer



**College of American Pathologists**  
Northfield, IL  
Lead Designer



**Westfield's Conference Center and Hotel**  
Fairfax, VA  
Lead Designer



**Vitreous State Laboratory**  
Catholic University  
Washington, DC  
Lead Designer



**Library**  
Mount Vernon College  
Washington, DC  
Lead Designer



**Boiler Plant**  
St. Elizabeth Hospital  
Youngstown, OH  
Lead Designer

*Exhibitions*

<p>2021</p> <p><b><i>The Wander Society Painters, Three Architects Celebrating the Small Towns of Ohio</i></b>                  Ruth Gless, FAIA, Terry Welker, FAIA, and Timothy Hawk, FAIA.                  Sharon Weiss Gallery and the Columbus Center for Architecture and Design, Columbus, OH  <i>(coming soon, with a possible encore in the Dayton Museum of Art)</i></p> <p>2020</p> <p><b><i>Artists' Self Portraits</i></b>                  Sharon Weiss Gallery, Columbus, OH</p> <p>2020</p> <p><b><i>Artists' Studios</i></b>                  Sharon Weiss Gallery, Columbus, OH</p> <p>2019</p> <p><b><i>83rd National Midyear Show</i></b>                  Featuring "Four Orange Chairs"                  Butler Institute of American Art                  (an annual juried show of work by artists from the US and the Territories), Youngstown OH</p>	<p>2017</p> <p><b><i>Full Frontal and Other Works, Solo Show</i></b>                  The Ohio State University Faculty Club, Columbus, OH</p> <p>2017</p> <p><b><i>Reams Revisited</i></b>                  The Georgian Museum                  Six paintings in a group show, Lancaster, OH</p> <p>2017</p> <p><b><i>Fredericktown Ohio Mill</i></b>                  Columbus Convention Center Permanent Collection</p> <p>2015</p> <p><b><i>R + R Interludes</i></b>                  Paintings                  Sharon Weiss Gallery, Columbus, OH</p> <p>2015</p> <p><b><i>Women in Architecture - Ohio Valley AIA</i></b>                  Paintings                  Ohio Valley Regional Convention, Columbus OH</p> <p>2015</p> <p><b><i>Urban Landscapes</i></b>                  Paintings                  Riffe Gallery, Columbus, OH</p>	<p>2015</p> <p><b><i>Columbus Review</i></b>                  Paintings                  Hilton Hotel, Columbus, OH</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b><i>Urban Landscapes Riffe Gallery</i></b>                  Paintings                  Columbus, OH</p> <p>2013-present</p> <p><b><i>Paintings</i></b>                  Sharon Weiss Gallery, Columbus, OH</p> <p>2011</p> <p><b><i>Forty Years of AIA Columbus Design Awards</i></b>                  An exhibition at AIA and CFAD including Lincoln Street Studio projects, Columbus, OH</p> <p>1993</p> <p><b><i>More Than the Sum of Our Body Parts: an exhibition by Women in Architecture</i></b>                  Featuring suspended, inverted skyscraper models.                  Concurrent with the AIA National Convention, Chicago, IL</p>
---	---	---



### 3.1 AIA COLUMBUS FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Columbus Fellows Committee bases the Fellowship Program on mentoring, collaboration, and collegiality. While Committee members hail from a variety of firms and institutions, all work together selflessly to discover developing leaders and to mentor them to achieve professional excellence. Often the mentorship lasts for years.

**“AIA Fellows are recognized with the AIA’s highest membership honor for their exceptional work and contributions to architecture and to society. The prestige of FAIA after one’s name is unparalleled, and the judging is rigorous. “An architect who has made significant contributions to the profession and to society and who exemplifies architectural excellence can become an AIA Fellow. Approximately three percent of the AIA’s 89,000+ members have achieved this distinction.”**

*Introduction Fellowship Submission, AIA Website*

#### THE PROGRAM

This straight-forward document is in three parts: **Mission, Process,** and **Schedule.**

#### Mission

First and foremost, the Committee recognizes that Fellowship in the AIA is a platform for service to the profession and to society. A basic tenant of the Fellows’ service is our mentorship of young architects. Our message:

- Fellowship is not a goal in itself, but the result of a purposeful career.
- Our mission is to assist young professionals to shape purposeful and successful careers and to achieve leadership in their communities and in the profession.
- Architect leaders elevate the profession in the eyes of the community, and encourage all architects to strive to be better professionals.
- With excellence in leadership, contribution, and sharing expertise with other professionals comes the possibility of Fellowship.
- We expect those who achieve Fellowship to mentor and to lift up others.
- This is why Fellowship is a platform not a pinnacle.

#### The Fellowship Process

The Committee works to support the candidates in completing their submissions. Following an annual cycle, the process actively identifies and recruits candidates (January), provides information on the submission process (January), provides group sessions to assist them in delivering an effective submission (February-June/July), and provides individual and small group coaching (summer-submission). The January to October cycle coordinates with the announcement of new Fellows – February – and the submission deadline – October.

#### Identify Candidates

Identifying future Fellows follows two paths:

- Identify and mentor future leaders who may pursue Fellowship as part of their future careers.
- Identify and assist prospective candidates to begin the submission process for elevation presently or in the near term.

This identification process begins in January:

- The chapter Executive Director (ED) keeps current a list of members whom the Committee follows, and a list of all eligible members.
- The ED organizes the lists by time – those who might submit this cycle, or within 2-5 years, and those more distant candidates (9-10 years out).
- Every January, the ED sends an e-mail to all eligible members encouraging them to consider pursuing elevation to the College of Fellows.
- In addition, the Chapter may offer a general information seminar on Fellowship – meaning, mission, requirements, and submission process.
- The ED adds any members who come forward and updates the list.

#### Review and Recruit Candidates

At the January meeting, the Committee reviews the status of prospective candidates. The committee considers the following in its deliberations:

- Are the candidate’s professional achievements indeed noteworthy?
- What is the candidate’s potential Object?
- Does the candidate have a national reach that has impact beyond a local or regional sphere?
- Which candidates are ready this year, and when might others be ready?

This first meeting provides tentative list of current candidates, those who wish to explore submitting the following October.

#### Assign Coaches

- Every candidate has a coach.
- Coaches actively recruit candidates and mentor them for several years as they approach appropriate time for submission.
- At the January meeting, the Committee seeks coaches for any candidate who does not already have one, or Fellows volunteer. Coaches often work together with a candidate according to their individual expertise.
- Coaches recognize that they are not gatekeepers but rather to be mentors and submission advisors.
- Often, more than one Fellow assists in coaching a candidate.
- A coach is not necessarily a candidate’s sponsor, but can be.

Submission Mentoring - With a tentative list of candidates and their coaches in hand, the Committee begins a series of monthly meetings including all current

candidates and coaches. The Committee strongly encourages candidates to attend these sessions. Candidates who have experienced this process agree that they learn a great deal from the comments offered to others as well as to themselves.

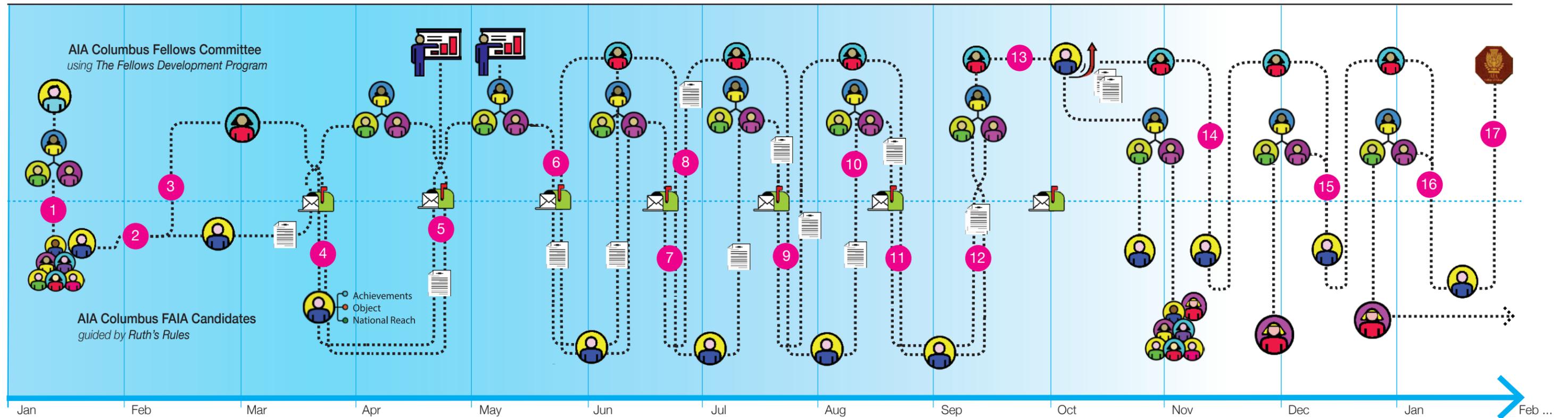
#### Group Mentoring Sessions

Group Mentoring Sessions take place from February to Jun/July, followed by more individualized assistance during summer up to the deadline.

To expedite the mentoring sessions, the Committee uses Drop Boxes for sharing information pertinent to the meetings and the Fellowship Process – One Drop Box invites candidates to study successful past submissions and other useful documents such as **Ruth’s Rules** – an outline of the submission process plus useful language and graphics advice. A second Drop Box posts updates of candidate work for Fellows to read in advance of meeting. Only the ED, the Committee members, and the sponsors have access to this Drop Box.



3.1 THE FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS SCHEDULE



**The Process Schedule**

- 1 January**  
The Committee reviews the status of prospective candidates who wish to explore submitting the following October. The Committee seeks coaches for any candidate who does not already have one, or Fellows volunteer.
- 2 February**  
Review of the candidates' potential argument.
- 3**  
• Accomplishments and contributions to the profession and to the community.
- 4**  
• Possible Object.  
• Names of ten supporters plus their geographic location.
- 5 March**  
Review of the draft statement, first draft of summary page, intended Object, and ten names plus geographic location of supporters.
- 6 April**  
A second review of the same materials based on comments received in the previous session.
- 7 May**  
A review of drafts of the Exhibits, Sponsors, and names of seven supporter.
- 8**  
A review of graphic templates.

- 9 June**  
A review of the overall appearance of the submissions and the graphics. Submissions will not be final.
- 10 July to the Deadline**
- 11**  
The remainder of the summer focuses on individualized sessions reserved for fine-tuning and edits, and for conversations with letter writers and sponsors.
- 12 October**  
Once all materials are collected, formatted, edited, corrected and reviewed, the final document is submitted to the Fellows jury, with announcement of the outcome to come the following February.
- 14 November to February**  
The Fellows Committee and Mentor continue to support the candidate, as needed. During this time, the Committee also begins the process of reviewing and selecting the next year's candidates.
- 15**  
The Fellows Committee and Mentor continue to support the candidate, as needed. During this time, the Committee also begins the process of reviewing and selecting the next year's candidates.
- 16 Follow-up 1**  
In the unfortunate event that a candidate is not elevated, they should call the Honor Awards officer at AIA National for jury comments. This has been helpful to many Fellows who have re-submitted the following year.
- 17 Follow-up 2**  
Successful candidates join their local Fellows committee so that you can assist mentoring future candidates.

Legend

Executive Director	Coaches
Fellows Committee	Drop Box
Selected Mentor	Work in Progress
FAIA Candidate	Final FAIA Submission
Next Year's FAIA Candidate	Submittal
AIA Columbus	College of Fellows

## 3.2 AIA COLUMBUS FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION - RUTH'S RULES

### RUTH'S RULES

Elevated to Fellowship in 2016, Ruth Gless, FAIA set about to clear a path for those following after. Consequently, she compiled and wrote *Ruth's Rules*, a "compendium of advice" for Fellowship candidates. *Ruth's Rules* is in six sections – a step-by-step guide through the application process. This straightforward document is available to all Fellowship candidates on the AIA Columbus Fellowship Drop Box, and the Committee members frequently share them with colleagues and candidates across the country. Ruth updates the Rules whenever new or compelling information becomes apparent. The Rules are in 6 Sections:

#### Section One - THEORY, INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS – "Are you ready?"

Three things determine whether a candidate is "ready": **national recognition, sufficient time, and a compelling argument.**

**First, a candidate must have achieved national recognition.** A candidate should be able to garner letters of support from across the country, to demonstrate a case for having shared his knowledge and expertise through speaking and writing with fellow professionals and/or the public on a regional and national basis. And the candidate should be able to name 7 prospective references, 5 of whom are AIA members, as many of them Fellows as possible.

**Second, the candidate needs sufficient time.** It takes time to gather information and documentation, to frame the argument, to present the supporting exhibits, and to marshal supporting letters. It is only fair to give one's supporters sufficient time to write their letters; the point is that the letters are supportive.

**Third is the argument** – what the candidate has done that is significant; how it has changed the profession; how it has benefited the community; and how it has shaped the world or the world's view of architecture and architects.

#### Section Two - THE JURY PROCESS, HOW IT WORKS

*"Since brevity is the soul of wit . . ."*

**Be incredibly clear, concise, and precise.**

"Each juror receives over 40 portfolios to review totaling close to 2,000 pages. The juror must prepare written reviews and separate scores for each of 9 criteria, over 700 individual data entries. The juror may spend up to two full weeks spread over two months."

At the meeting of the full jury conference in February, each juror leads a 10-minute on-screen review of the candidate to the other voting members.

Lack of clarity, wandering prose, or too many words, any confusion leads the juror or the full jury to backtrack or to search for information because something is unclear, can be bad for a candidate. Hence the advice to be clear, concise, and precise, and ordered.

#### Section Three - SPONSOR'S ROLE, LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

This section emphasizes the importance of the sponsor's contribution, from the letter itself, his assistance in focusing the submittal, to his help in vetting and coordinating the supporters, and assuring that the letters are positive.

#### Section Four - THE SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

This section details critical considerations in creating the submission. **Write the document yourself. Do not have your marketing staff assemble exhibits without major input from you.** There is a danger that such text will boast about the firm rather than the candidate and will not coincide with the candidate's argument. As an alternative, Ruth suggests that candidates write the submittal and then hire a writer to edit the text.

With regard to order, the *Rules* suggest that the candidate:

- **Make the points in your argument in the same order throughout** – in the "Zinger," (i.e. the Summary Statement), in the introductory paragraph of your summary page, and in the organization of the summary page. Then use that order in the presentation of your Exhibits.
- **Establish continuity of key themes** – Whatever argument the writer establishes should appear in the entirety of the document.
- **Summary of Achievements** – This section focuses on the details of assignment.
- **Exhibits** – This section discusses the nature of "projects," that is, a project need not be a built work but can be a book, a study, or a symposium, created under the candidate's leadership.

#### Section Five - LANGUAGE, GRAPHICS

This section is a simple set of rules to clarify the language and visual appearance of the document, first about making writing simpler and clearer, and making it move forward. To paraphrase Strunk and White (*The Elements of Style*), Ruth points out that a writer should think of the reader as stuck in quicksand and that it is his job to throw him a rope.



Jury Process:  
How It Works

Each Juror Reviews 2000 Pages + Every Year  
That's 40-50 submissions x 40 pages each.

She prepares written reviews and scores for each of 9 criteria  
That's 700 individual data entries = two weeks of work spread over two months.

Presentation to the Committee  
The juror presents to the other 5 voting members - 10 minutes per candidate = 15 seconds per page.

**ERGO** – be clear, concise, and precise.

Fellowship Session 18 of 33

Formulate Your Argument

Revisit your summary, object, exhibits and 35 words often.

Keep Working

Fellowship Session 22 of 33

**Ruth speaking with Peter Bardwell, FAIA**, "Peter, what's the geographic reach of people with whom you've shared *Ruth's Rules*?" **Peter to Ruth**, "Well, I haven't sent it internationally yet, but I have pretty well covered the country!"

-continued

3.2 AIA COLUMBUS FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION - RUTH'S RULES *-continued*

Language

**Do not bury the topic sentence** or the most important point in the middle of the paragraph.

**Omit needless words.** The jury member responsible for presenting your case to the jury as a whole has more than forty or fifty submissions to ... Give the jurors a break, and give them fewer words to review.

**Use bullet points.** Reduce the amount of text. Use the same grammatical construction in the bullet points of a series. Example: See high-lighted words in this series.

**Use the active voice.** Passive voice moves the action backward – bad. Example: *The concept became embraced by other architects.* Active voice moves the action forward – good. Example: *Architects across the nation embraced the concept.*

**Be concrete and direct.** Avoid abstractions and jargon. Example: “Impact” is one of those nouns that has become a verb, has become overused, and has lost effectiveness. I have read over and over how the architect “has impacted the design of XX.” Better to say “shaped the design of XX.” That is not to say you should never use “impact” sparingly as a noun.

**Use parallel construction** – it helps keep the writing clear.

**Do not beat around the bush.** You have done great things – just say so.

Graphics

**Be consistent.** Use the same margins throughout. Highlight the same things. Put the headings and titles in the same place.

**On the exhibit pages, position the Challenge, Nominee’s Role, and Outcomes** in the same place on every page so the jury can easily find these things. Note that instructions on the Fellowship website specifically ask for these elements. It is critical to be clear.

**Challenge** – What was the project attempting to achieve from the point of view of your thesis – how did the project represent your achievement in this area? Keep it simple – it would be best if in a verb format. Example: Establish structures to promote staff mentoring and professional development, as a foundation for firm growth to a national stature.

**Nominee’s Role** – What did you do? – State this simply, Principal in Charge, or Design Lead, or, as in the following Example: “Conceptualized and implemented the program.”

**Outcomes** – How did the project solve the challenges as stated? Here you are allowed to explain some of the amazing things the project accomplished. If possible, present a few sentences followed by bullet points.

**Impact** – This is not a requirement, but if your work has had a national or far-reaching impact, you can call out the accomplishments.

**Quotations, statistics** – These are tremendously helpful. Try to highlight them graphically by positioning them on the same place on your exhibit pages.

**Embrace simplicity.** Make it easy for readers to read and find their way around in your document. This is why we suggest using bullet points.

**Embrace white space.** Do not so fill up the page that readers go crazy trying to figure out where you want them to focus. If there is enough white space, things you highlight – important stuff like quotations or statistics – will stand out.

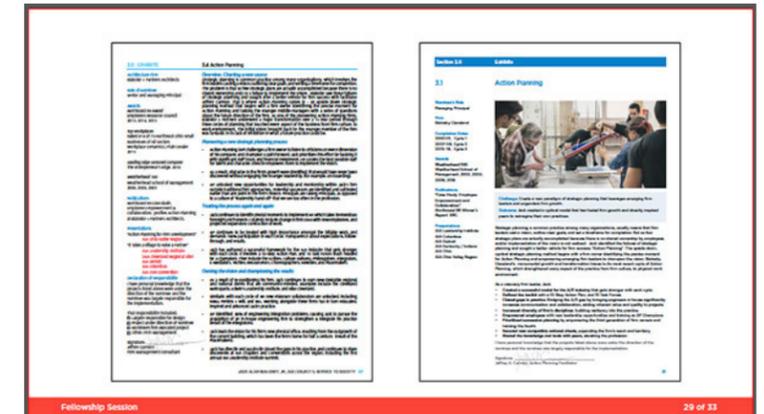
**Section Six - ADDITIONAL POINTS - Honesty is the Best Policy**

This section includes useful information reminding candidates to be clear about attribution, claiming to have completed many more projects than is possible in a career, and the fear of showing non-traditional projects:

“In recent years, the jury has demonstrated support for candidates’ portfolios in a diverse range of project types, including truck stops, and casinos. The jury can insist that the candidate not try to use flowery text to obfuscate the nature of the candidate’s work. Rather, they may reward candidates who take pride in unorthodox contributions that demonstrate the unique value that they have brought to an unusual project type.”

**Ruth’s Rules**, as they are widely known, are legendary. They have become the unofficial guide for portfolio preparation, offering helpful advice on submission development and refinement to scores of Fellowship candidates.

*Helene Combs Drilling, FAIA | 2014 AIA President*



Examples showing clarity in a document, created by the use of white space. Left, poor design. Right, good design.

**Organization and Graphics**

- Be consistent so that the reader knows where to look for information
  - Headings, titles, typeface
  - Margins
  - Highlights – colored text
- Exhibit Pages
  - Position the **Challenge, Nominee’s Role, and Outcomes** in the same place on every page so the jury can easily find these things.
  - Note that instructions on the Fellowship website specifically ask for these elements.
  - Some candidates add **Impact** to demonstrate national reach.

**Last Words of Encouragement**

- Don’t be modest.
- Make the first exhibit a knock-out, also the last.
- Embrace simplicity
  - Make it easy for someone to read your document. The reader is in quicksand; it’s your job to throw her a rope.
  - Embrace white space
    - Don’t so fill up the page that readers go crazy trying to figure out what you are showing them.
    - If there is enough white space, things you highlight, important stuff like quotations or statistics, will stand out.

### 3.3 AIA YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARD + ARCHWAY

#### NATIONAL AIA YOUNG ARCHITECTS AWARD

*“Emerging Talent deserves recognition. The AIA Young Architects Award honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the architecture profession early in their careers. Find out what it takes to apply for this national award, learn how to shape your career towards your personal and professional goals, and get connected to a team of past recipients who will mentor you through the application process. Coaching sessions will begin in late June. Award applications are due September 15.”* *Matt Toddy, AIA*

Matt Toddy and colleague Jonathon Moody are recipients of the **2021 National AIA Young Architects Award** and join the 2019 recipient Adam Yarcas, AIA, of AIA Cleveland. Above is the message Matt Toddy sent in May 2021, via AIA Ohio, to invite interested prospective candidates to an information session regarding the National AIA Young Architects Awards. Ruth mentored Matt through the process and edited both his and Jonathon Moody’s successful submissions.

Given the successful organization of the **Columbus Fellows Development Process**, Ruth persuaded Matt to chair a group focused on a similar mission – to identify and mentor young architects early in their careers toward leadership and professional excellence. Matt has formulated and published a process based heavily on Ruth’s **AIA Columbus Fellows Development Process**, and AIA Ohio will host the on-line meetings of interested young Architects and the ongoing state-wide process. The three Ohio honorees will make up the committee, and the Columbus Fellows have agreed to assist candidates as needed. Ruth will solicit support from Fellows across Ohio to coach possible candidates. This is the first year of this endeavor; all hope for a successful outcome.



#### ARCHway

ARCHway is an AIA Columbus mentorship/leadership initiative which connects young architects with firm leaders in the Columbus architectural community. It is a comprehensive approach intending mentorship to “go both ways” and to focus on developing leadership skills for emerging talent and seasoned professionals. The program structures multiple modes of active interaction such as group mentoring, reverse mentoring, and peer-mentoring, through thought-provoking sessions. The program engages professional consultants for a number of sessions, and teaches participants to strengthen and explore pathways to personal and professional growth. ARCHway launched its second program year in early 2020.

**Ruth advised the young architects throughout conception and development of ARCHway programs, and was a mentor, and she presented the Shaping Your Career session.**

#### Session Zero – Speed Mentoring Mixer

A 2-hour mixer, a casual event allows all participants to interact with one another. This ice-breaker exercise for Advisees and Advisors identifies key interests as the basis for mentoring relationships. Session leaders distribute resumes of all participants prior to the event.

#### Session One – Career Journeys Beyond Design

It is critical that leaders know themselves, their talents and leadership skills. Too often, talented professionals focus energy on their weaknesses instead of their strengths, only to squander both career opportunities and benefits for their organizations. Participants in this workshop take the Clifton Strengths Finder to discover their five strongest talents. The workshop discusses strategies to focus on strengths as a way to increase leadership effectiveness and self-confidence.

**Session Two – Ruth’s Presentation, Shaping Your Career, “Find out what you want to do, and spend the rest of your life getting better at it.”**

This session discusses making a plan based on personal strengths, exercising flexibility to anticipate and react to change, and to change course if necessary. The session discusses practical techniques in developing leadership skills and credibility, and the importance of mentorship, both giving and receiving. Leadership in the profession drives a purposeful career and giving back clears a path for future leaders.

#### Session Three – Stories of Architects: An Advisor Panel Discussion

A moderator-led panel discussion with three of Columbus’s leading architects, participants tell their person stories of how they rose to success and of some personal triumphs.

#### Session Four – Foster the People: Achieving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace

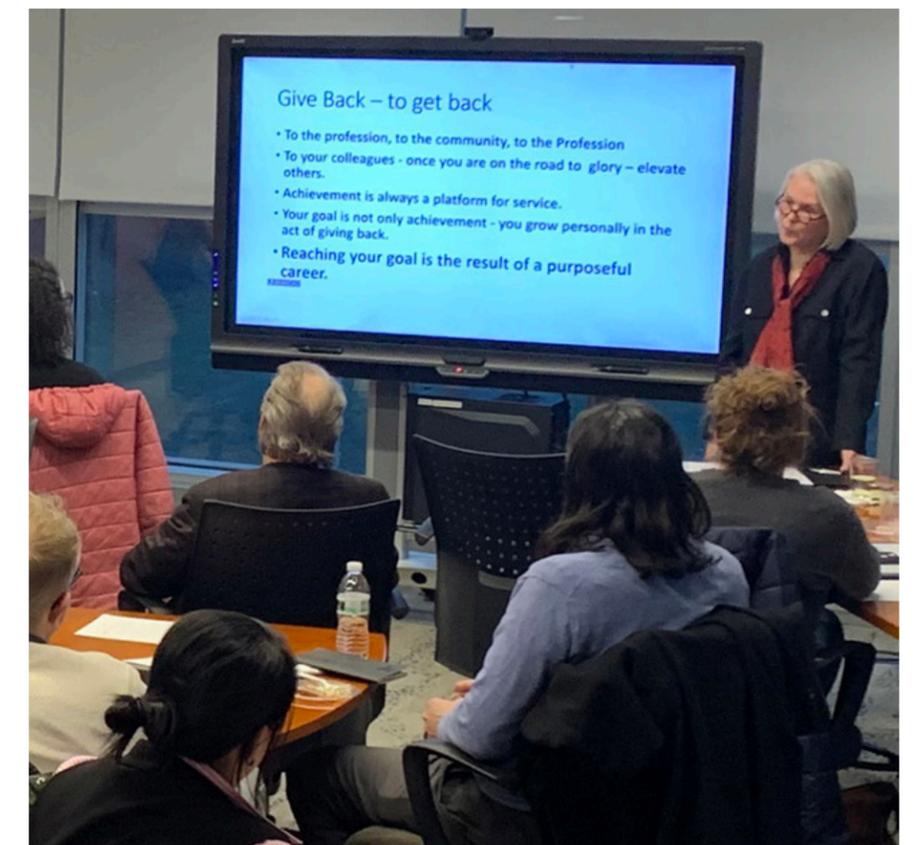
An interactive session focused on issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the architectural profession.

#### Session Five – Keynote Presentation

This presentation is open to the entire Chapter, features an inspirational leader, like the mayor, or a notable professional.

#### Session Six – Final Reflections

This is the finale, a social event and a chance for all the participants to gather to share their experiences.



### 3.4 CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN + CAMP ARCHITECTURE

#### THE CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

In 2008, AIA Columbus leadership recognized the need for community engagement, public discourse, and knowledge exchange surrounding architecture and design in the public realm. In order to establish a vital outreach entity, Ruth chaired an AIA Columbus Task Force to conceptualize and implement a Center for Architecture and Design in Columbus (CFAD). The Chapter expanded its Architecture Foundation, creating a presence for design in the region.

The Center's programs engage the public in dialogue, elevate architecture and design in public consciousness, and establish Columbus nationally as a "Center of Design." Of the vibrant education and outreach programs – *Camp Architecture*, *Design Talks*, *Exhibits*, *Design:ROLLS (Architectural Bike Tours)*, and *Design Week(s) – Camp Architecture* is the most popular.

#### CAMP ARCHITECTURE

Camp Architecture and Design and High School Design Studio are youth education programs dedicated to introducing children and young adults (and their parents) to the world of architecture and design through hands-on activities, field trips, walking tours, imaginative games, and presentations by industry professionals. The Camp offers these programs in partnership with The Ohio State University Knowlton School of Architecture and the Department of Design, and Columbus College of Art and Design, as well as with central Ohio design professionals.

First offered in 2010 for three weeks in the CFAD space, the Camp received grants from Accent on Architecture (2010) and AIA National (\$10,000 in 2012), and an AIA Excellence Award (2013). By 2015, The Camp had expanded to six weeks of sessions held at the Knowlton School of Architecture serving 90 students, some receiving scholarships. By 2019, there were 110-25 Campers, including High School Design, with 20-35 scholarships annually.

Gifts and grants total more than \$10,000 annually:

2017: Campers approximately 110-125, scholarships 22

2018: Campers approximately 110-125, scholarships 33

2019: Campers approximately 110-125, scholarships 36

2020: Campers minus High Schoolers 45, scholarships 12

Owing to the pandemic, numbers in 2020 and 2021 have been vastly reduced, and the Camp was back again in the CFAD facility. Hopes are high for a return to "normal" in 2022.

**Camp Architecture and Design** for students entering grades 3-8: There are three one-week sessions. Camp counselors include both child education specialists and university level design students. Activities include hands-on projects, presentations, and tours, covering diverse design disciplines, a day each – Architecture, Industrial Design and Engineering, City and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Interior and Graphic Design.

**High School Design Studio** for students entering grades 9-12: There is one two-week session, which simulates collegiate level design experience which explore studies in the design disciplines. The studio is immersive and simulates a collegiate experience; students learn and practice skills used in creating design solutions. Students work with design educators and professionals in Architecture, City and Regional Planning, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, and Engineering.



3.5 FOUNDATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE GROWTH

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

Ruth, as a strong woman, has always known that she is a role model for women in her profession. Consequently, she initiates diversity-focused discussions, presentations, and exhibits. Several stand out:

The CARY Exhibition

Ruth was engaged with a group of young women in Chicago who devised an exhibition hung during the AIA National Convention in Chicago in 1993.

The Exhibition consisted of prominent skyscrapers made of styrene, plastered and painted or papered, and hung upside down. “You could say that the whole thing was very feminist and tongue in cheek. We created the exhibition because at the time it was nearly impossible for a woman to lead a skyscraper design team.”



The year 1993 was significant because it marked the 100th anniversary of the **Columbia Exposition** held in Chicago - and because it the year Susan Maxman, FAIA was President of the National AIA – the first woman to achieve that distinction.

Women in Architecture Exhibit

Chair – Ruth initiated this endeavor. She decided that the up-coming OVR Convention needed a graphic, visual reminder of the contributions women in the region have made and continue to make to the profession. The exhibit was shown at 2015 AIA OVR Convention and subsequently in Center for Architecture and Design at AIA Columbus.



Women in Architecture Panel

“Women in Architecture, It’s Not Just About the Glass Ceiling”

Ruth organized and led this panel discussion about diversity and what it means in the profession. The panel spoke at the 2015 AIA OVR Convention. Panelists, in addition to Ruth, were Yanitza Bronger-Merrero, AIA, Prof. Jane Murphy, AIA, OSU, Sandra LaFontayne, AIA, and Stephanie Hayward, AIA.

Women in Architecture Panel Topics included:

- Discuss whether women are treated differently from men in the academy.
- Discuss whether women are promoted equally to men in architecture firms; discuss the issue of equal pay for women.
- Discuss the language of mentorship and leadership as it relates to women.
- Discover a new definition of diversity.



Staff Development in the Corporate World – Perkins & Will

Gless created a professional development program to train P&W staff toward excellence and to provide opportunities for professional growth.

Gless re-formulated the staff evaluation and development program by defining the skill level required for each architect at each stage of growth, balanced the performance requirements at levels of skill in key areas of practice: Design, Building Technology, and Management, as well as the Professionalism and Effective Communication required universally in practice.

Gless created career review and planning guidelines and a training program to allow for balances assignments and clear path forward for employees. She also guided practice areas outside of architecture – interior design, graphic design, and the engineering studios in creating their discipline-specific professional development systems.



### 3.6 ITALIAN VILLAGE ARCHITECTURE

#### COMMUNITY ENHANCING ARCHITECTURE

##### *Establishing a National Model for Community Development*

Immediately north of downtown Columbus is a nineteenth century neighborhood with Italianate working-class houses and a lively arts district with galleries and restaurants along the main street. It has gone through a 30-year rejuvenation originating from a small pocket of renovated buildings to a main street burgeoning with new multi-story housing and commercial activity. It is now one of the most sought-after districts in the metro area. Ruth made an impact on development early on, as a member of the design review board and as a contributor to the architecture of the neighborhood.

##### *New Village Houses, A Public Client*

During the early phases of regeneration, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) determined to replace an outdated high-rise with repetitive housing in scale with the neighborhood. CMHA expected architects to present a finished design at interview – business as usual for them. Ruth and her team asserted that a finished design at interview would be presumptuous. She suggested a process of goals setting, program definition, and context studies to analyze the neighborhood street patterns and historic house types – both necessary and prudent. She knew that residents and the Italian Village Commission design review board would weigh in on the project. In addition, as the neighborhood was becoming fashionable, CMHA would offer 80% of the housing at market rate to generate income for more needy projects in an era of dwindling public funding. A well-designed contextual project would be paramount.

- The housing needed to look market-rate, not like public housing.
- The subsidized units need to be unidentified.
- The housing and street patterns needed to be contextual, and to pass design review.

The firm's design replaced a derelict senior housing high-rise with a diverse assemblage of 37 buildings, 100 units – the first new development of any size in Italian Village. It spurred a resurgence. New Village Place is vibrant section of Italian Village. There is a waiting list to lease the houses.



##### *THREE PROJECTS FOR A PRIVATE CLIENT*

Working collaboratively, Ruth clarified for the client that good design is a benefit to the urban context, that it elevates the neighborhood in the eyes of the public and is therefore a benefit economically, both to her, and to the city.

##### *First - Triangle Houses*

On an impossible site – a triangular piece of land facing the freeway and a view of the downtown skyline – a costly four-story design had languished for a decade until Ruth and her partner approached the developer with a clever solution:

- Create three separate zero lot-line houses; the space between the houses becomes more useful.
- Use the limited site carefully; stack the cars using a car lift - cheaper than an extra garage space.
- Create a roof-top terrace for precious outdoor space, especially when the view is spectacular.
- Design it to “fit” in the Italian Village historic district, yet make it modern.

The solution – three tall skinny houses planned for efficiency, a plan in three modules, a garage module, an entry slot, and a living module. To fit, the freeway side is modern, clad in metal, the neighborhood side is Italian Village red brick.



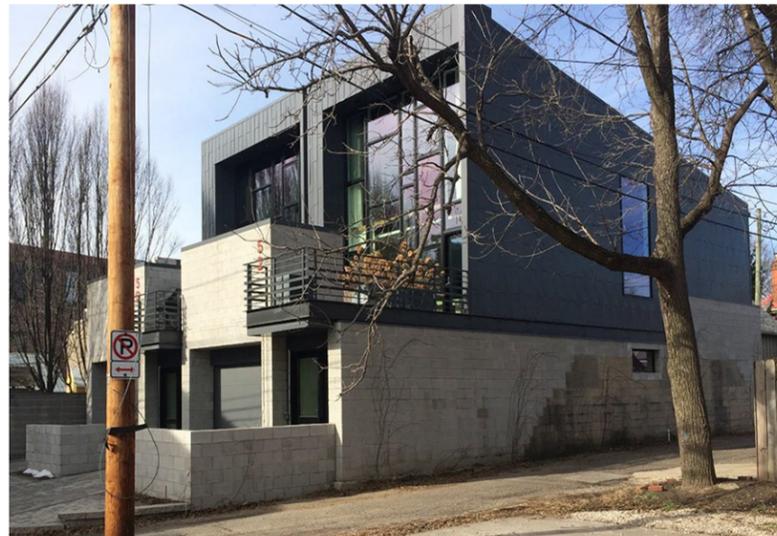
### 3.6 ITALIAN VILLAGE ARCHITECTURE

*THREE PROJECTS FOR A PRIVATE CLIENT -continued*

*Second - 50-52 Brickel Street*

The deteriorated concrete block service garage had operated well beyond its useful life-span was at some point left with only a macabre collection of dead mice, dead cars, and legends of a dead employee found in the back. To revive the building as a pair of urban town houses was a serious challenge – a partially collapsed roof, buckled slab floor, and cracked exterior wall. An ideal location, the 40' x 80' site is on an alley, close to the epicenter of city life, in the Italian Village. The project would nudge the sleepy alley toward a neighborhood path friendlier to foot traffic than vehicles.

- The original building was hardly salvageable. In the end, Southern exposure, views, and access determined a lengthwise split.
- The plan places garage, storage, and one bedroom on the ground, and main living and a second sleeping room on the second. The roof form opens to the south (the alley), allowing for a mezzanine, a view, and light to penetrate deep into the interior.
- A terrace above the garage and facing the alley provides welcome outdoor space.



*Third - The Six Soldier Houses*

Using the zero lot-line principle, Ruth's Lincoln Street Studio team maximized a tight site and a slim foot print to create simple houses for start-up buyers.

- The houses are skinny and tall, a steep gable emphasizing the skinniness and saying "house."
- Open living and kitchen, garage at the back, occupy the ground floor, private spaces above.
- A loft occupies the gable, open to below.
- A screened porch, facing the blank wall of the neighbor, and a tiny front garden are a bonus.
- Painting the houses in descending greys from dark to light emphasizes them as a phalanx to be reckoned with in the neighborhood.





MOODY•NOLAN

Columbus, Ohio 43215  
June 2, 2019

MOODYNOLAN.COM



Dear Awards Committee,

It is a great pleasure to support Ruth Gless, FAIA, for the 2021 AIA Ohio Gold Medal. Ruth is an exceptional architect and artist, who has devoted much of her career to teaching and mentoring architects at all levels. Her passion, energy, and candor push others to be their very best. I have known Ruth for 15 years and she has mentored me at different stages of my career and all my years on the AIA Columbus Board.

Ruth is chair of the AIA Columbus Fellowship Committee, where she developed a methodology for attaining fellowship—something she shares with other candidates and chapters across the country. The critical pieces to the methodology are identifying and mentoring future candidates, coaching prospective candidates who may be ready to apply for Fellowship in 5-10 years, and mentoring current candidates toward successful submissions. Ruth created "Ruth's Rules", a compilation of wisdom and information gleaned from her own submission process and from first-hand observations. Since chairing the Committee, the success rate for Fellowship is remarkable with 11 AIA Fellows nationwide since 2017.

About 5 years ago, Ruth approached me about my possible interest to apply for fellowship. I was very honored and uncertain about my qualifications to pursue this. Ruth was patient, encouraging and kind as these conversations took place over several years. These conversations lead to my own personal reflection and ultimately an intentional search to shape my career. I have seen Ruth do this for many architects.

Ruth believes passionately that Fellowship is not a professional pinnacle but rather a platform for contribution, for serving the profession, and for mentoring others toward professional excellence.

Ruth is passionate about empowering women. She is a role model and mentor to women in architecture, helping them shape their careers and leadership skills, and celebrating their successes. In 2015, Ruth organized the OVR Women in Architecture exhibit. In 2018, she helped lead the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies for AIA Columbus and was also the first speaker in Columbus "Stories of Architects", a series that features architects from under-represented groups in architecture. In 2019, Ruth received the AIA Ohio Mentorship Award, as a recognition of all her efforts mentorship efforts.

Ruth is an amazing resource to the profession, she continues to teach, lead presentations, serve as an amazing mentor and encourage professionals to drive excellence. Her leadership and guidance make our profession stronger and more resilient. I cannot think of a person who is more deserving of this award than Ruth Gless, FAIA.

Sincerely,

Yanitza Brongers-Marrero, AIA  
NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, LEED FOR HOMES

Principal / Director of Housing



Robert D. Loversidge, FAIA  
Architect & CEO

ARCHITECTURE. INSPIRED.

June 3, 2021

AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Ste. 120  
Worthington, OH 43085

Subject: **Ruth M. Gless, FAIA** – Candidate for AIA Ohio Gold Medal

Dear Distinguished Jury Members:

Please accept this letter expressing my unconditional support for the nomination of Ruth M. Gless, FAIA for the AIA Ohio Gold Medal. I have been 'at this' for a long time, and whenever I think of someone who has demonstrated decades of leadership, design and service to the profession, Ruth Gless immediately comes to mind. In addition to her significant design and service accomplishments – which are exemplary – Ruth is the consummate teacher and mentor. She has promoted and led many efforts to increase opportunities and inclusiveness in our profession, serving especially as a role model for women professionals.

Perhaps her most important contribution to the profession is Ruth's service as chair of the AIA Columbus Fellows Committee. In this role since 2017, she can claim 'credit' for nine new AIA Fellows, but more importantly she has forged a committee process that seeks to identify – early – potential candidates. Once identified, they are encouraged and paired with another Fellow and mentored, sometimes for a number of years, so the committee can assist them to create a successful submission. The committee process is inclusive and uplifting, not the judgmental and limiting process we have seen in other chapters around the country.

This process has been shared with and adopted by other AIA Chapters and, in fact, "Ruth's Rules" – a concise guide to better writing which Ruth created to help architects write more effective submissions – has been declared "legendary" by Helene Coumbs Dreiling, FAIA (AIA National President, 2014).

**Design** – a distinctive body of work. **Leadership** – passion, commitment and contributions. **Service** – to the profession, cumulative over time. **Ruth M. Gless, FAIA.**

Jurors, please consider this as my most enthusiastic endorsement of Ruth Gless for our highest honor, the Gold Medal.

Sincerely,

SCHOOLEY CALDWELL

300 Marconi Boulevard  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

T 614.628.0300  
F 614.628.0311

schooleycaldwell.com

Robert D. Loversidge Jr., FAIA  
AIA Ohio Gold Medal – 2006  
AIA Ohio Public Service Award – 2002  
Previous AIA Ohio Gold Medal Awards Jury Member

robert maschke **ARCHITECTS** inc.  
 Gordon Square • 6421 Detroit Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44102.3011  
 216.281.6421  
[www.robertmaschke.com](http://www.robertmaschke.com)

June 8, 2020

AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury, Ms. Karen Planet, AIA, President, AIA Ohio,  
 400 W. Wilson Bridge Suite 120, Columbus, Ohio 43085

*Letter of Support  
 Ruth M. Gless, FAIA  
 2021 AIA Ohio Gold Medal*

Dear President Planet and the AIA Ohio Board of Directors,

Please accept my emphatic support of Ruth M. Gless, FAIA for the 2021 American Institute of Architects Ohio Chapter's Gold Medal.

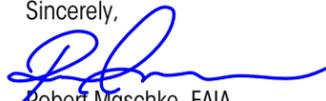
I have known Ruth for more than two decades as an architect, a colleague and a friend. She is the exemplar of the three categories defined by the Gold Medal: Design, Leadership, and Service. I have experienced her critically acclaimed designs, witnessed her community leadership, and followed the service that she provides to the profession while mentoring and nurturing multiple generations of architects.

While serving several years with Ruth on the AIA Ohio Board, I have witnessed her passion and dedication to the profession. Particularly her efforts to elevate Ohio architects to national importance through Fellowship. The Columbus Fellowship Development Program, which Ruth developed, is considered the model program for other AIA Chapters. The seminar program, "Shaping Your Career Toward Leadership and Fellowship" was born from this program and has been implemented statewide.

I am excited to support Ruth M. Gless, FAIA for AIA Ohio's Gold Medal. I trust that you will find her body of work, her contributions to the profession, and her enthusiasm for success equally inspiring.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Maschke, FAIA  
 AIA Ohio Gold Medalist | AIA Ohio Past President

 Ohio Gold Medal Firm, The American Institute of Architects

Carole J. Olshavsky, FAIA  
 5747 Strathmore Lane, Dublin, OH 43017  
 E-mail: [cjolshavsky@gmail.com](mailto:cjolshavsky@gmail.com)  
 Phone: 614.361.5637

June 4, 2021

Jack Bialosky, FAIA, Chair  
 Honor Awards Jury  
 AIA Ohio  
 400 W. Wilson Rd., Suite 120  
 Worthington, OH 43085

RE: Nomination of Ruth M. Gless, FAIA  
 AIA Ohio Gold Medal

Jack and Members of the Jury:

Ruth Gless has excelled at leadership, service to the profession and architectural design throughout her career in unique and wonderful ways. I know her best for her outstanding leadership with the Columbus Chapter AIA and in particular her passion and perseverance in mentoring young architects and especially young women in architecture. It is with great pleasure that I support her nomination for the 2021 AIA Ohio Gold Medal.

I first met Ruth shortly after she came to Columbus in 1995 to join NBBJ as a principal. At that time, she was one of only a few women to hold leadership positions in large Ohio architectural firms. Our paths have crossed numerous times since and I have been impressed not only with her architectural accomplishments at NBBJ and her own firm, but also with her unflagging commitment to her new community and her ongoing service to the profession.

Her positive impact on the Columbus Chapter is widely recognized and rightfully so, but of particular importance is her ongoing passionate and relentless dedication to mentoring young women in architecture. Her background as an educator certainly augments her efforts and as Ruth says, once a teacher, always a teacher. The young women in the Chapter have come to rely on her advice and council as they advance their careers. Ruth has encouraged, pushed and supported young architects to follow a path focused on success and leadership and the pursuit of Fellowship. I've have had the pleasure of knowing some of her proteges and can attest that they are outstanding young architects!

As her portfolio demonstrates, Ruth's efforts have been a tremendous success in the Columbus Chapter. Ruth is worthy of this honor and I strongly support your selection of Ruth M. Gless, FAIA for the 2021 AIA Ohio Gold Medal.

Sincerely,

*Carole J. Olshavsky, FAIA*

Carole J. Olshavsky, FAIA  
 AIA Ohio President, 1985  
 AIA Ohio Gold Medal, 1993  
 AIA National Vice President, 1995  
 Chancellor, AIA College of Fellows, 2008

RENARD, LLC

June 2, 2021

Dear AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury Members:

This letter is in support of Ruth Gless's nomination for the AIA Ohio Gold Medal. During her professional life, Ruth has had tremendous impact on the physical environment of this State through her own architectural projects and through her influence and mentorship of other architects. Her values, operational methodologies, and service to others is exceptional. Clearly Ruth is a servant teacher/leader/mentor to many firms, organizations and individuals.

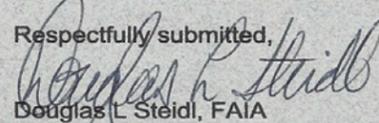
Ms. Gless is a teacher! Her vision for how the profession changes society, not just through buildings, but by creating community stands as a marker in the minds of many practitioners. Her work at the Lincoln Street Studio exemplified this vision in reality. But, more importantly Ruth has transmitted that vision regarding people's interaction and how architects facilitate such community building through mentoring, presentations and panel discussions. She unselfishly shares this concept and knowledge across the country, providing insights, guidance and advice to numerous architectural firms and community organizations.

Ruth is a leader! Her success could have been channeled inwardly, but she has chosen to reach out and be available to both architects and the public, no matter who they may be, who are in need of her knowledge. Mentees of Ruth are scattered across the country. Her greatest impact of leadership is obviously in Ohio, where she dwells and practiced. Yet, her influence is national as a result of her presentations and the impact her mentees have spread to other locations. She serves in many rolls, acting as community spokesperson, and standard-bearer of community values. AIA Ohio has been blessed with her participation for many decades as a chapter president, a state board member and a vocal presence. The Neighborhood Design Center and the Center for Architecture and Design, which she helped found, have benefitted greatly from her leadership and presidencies. Ruth is a catalyst for action.

Ruth is a mentor! During my years serving the architecture profession in Ohio and during my eight years on the national AIA board of directors, Ruth was always available to me as a sounding board and trusted advisor. She stood and stands today as a strong advocate and mentor to current students of the profession, as well as practitioners who have distinguished themselves and seek Fellowship status. Her work within the state of Ohio assisting AIA Fellowship applicants is unequalled.

I strongly encourage you to give strong consideration to awarding the AIA Ohio Gold Medal to Ruth Gless, FAIA. She is deserving and by nature will continue to provide vision and guidance to architectural professionals and communities throughout her lifetime.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas L. Steidl, FAIA  
2004 Recipient, The AIA Ohio Gold Medal  
2005 President, The American Institute of Architects  
Dean Emeritus, The College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Kent State University

2492 Main Street, Peninsula, Oh 44264-330-962-3801-dlssrs72@roadrunner.com

## Perkins&amp;Will

Date: 6.7.2021

**AIA Ohio**  
400 W Wilson Bridge Road, Ste. 120  
Worthington OH 43085

**Letter of Support for AIA Ohio Gold Medal**  
**Ruth Gless, FAIA**

To the AIA Ohio Awards Committee

I write to provide my strong recommendation and unqualified support for Ruth Gless, FAIA for the AIA Ohio Gold Medal. I have known Ruth for three decades. During that time, she has been a consummate colleague, a devoted friend, and especially a quintessential mentor.

I first met Ruth at Perkins&Will when, she as a Senior Designer and I as a young architect, collaborated on an elementary school in northern Ohio, the first of a number of such collaborations. Ruth brought a distinct energy to the projects and the team esprit de corps. I distinctly recall the time she would spend mentoring younger team members whether it be about the profession in general, a design strategy, or a detail. And we all looked forward to Ruth's "word of the day," Ruth the teacher making sure that we were all well-spoken architects.

Ruth moved to the Chicago Office (1990) and was a senior leader of my studio. It was a crucial time; we were just peeking out of a recession. P&W had down-sized and was re-inventing itself getting ready to grow. As I recall Ruth worked with Augie Battaglia, FAIA, then studio head of Architecture to create foundational programs for employee education and evaluation. She re-wrote the job performance descriptions and performance evaluation criteria for the architectural employees and assisted the interiors and engineering studios to do the same. And she created a curriculum for in-house continuing education and oversaw the Practice Manual. It was all right up her alley.

Most recently, as I was making my application for the College of Fellows, Ruth was, without question, the first person I thought of for support. I knew her keen eye for the written word and architectural content combined with a healthy dose of candor was just the combination that would help to make my submission sing. As I worked through constructing my submission, Ruth committed countless hours advising me on approach, proofing material, and offering needed and appreciated criticism. I can say, without reservation, that Ruth Gless, FAIA is one of the main, if not the main, reason that I was successful with my first attempt. I will add that while Ruth and I worked on this at a distance, I in Chicago and she in Columbus, I know she leads FAIA submission efforts in Columbus and has mentored many others on this quest.

For the reasons cited above, I strongly recommend Ruth Gless, FAIA for the AIA Ohio Gold.

Sincerely,



**Steven Turckes, FAIA, ALEP, LEED AP**  
PreK-12 Global Practice Leader  
Perkins&Will