

## ***Transcending Architecture: Aesthetics and Ethics of the Numinous***

Interdisciplinary Symposium, 6-8 October 2011

School of Architecture and Planning

The Catholic University of America

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### ***Speakers organized in alphabetical order (Last names)***



**Thomas Barrie**, AIA is a Professor of Architecture at North Carolina State University where he served as School Director from 2002 – 2007. Professor Barrie’s scholarship on the symbolism, ritual use and cultural significance of architecture has brought him to sacred places around the world, and he has published and lectured extensively in his subject area. He is an award-winning architect and the author of *The Sacred In-Between: The Mediating Roles of Architecture* (Routledge, 2010) and *Spiritual Path, Sacred Place: Myth Ritual and Meaning in Architecture* (Shambhala, 1996). He is a founding member of the

Forum for Architecture, Culture and Spirituality. [www.acsforum.org/](http://www.acsforum.org/) Professor Barrie is committed to broadening the scope and audience of architecture through scholarship, publication, extension and community-based design studios. His work focuses on educating future leaders of the profession while engaging the public in critical issues regarding the built environment. At NC State he leads the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities initiative, which provides educational resources for government, non-profit and community leaders, students, and the general public, and innovative and applicable solutions to the housing and urban challenges that North Carolina communities face.

<http://design.ncsu.edu/research/hhd/hedi-projects/affordable-housing-sustainability> . For more information, refer to <http://design.ncsu.edu/users/thomas-barrie>



Dr. **Karla Britton**’s academic work focuses on the modern architect’s engagement with tradition in twentieth-century architecture and urbanism. Her teaching has emphasized the intersection of classicism and modernization, and the evolution of modern ecclesiastical building. Since 2003, she has taught a seminar on the “Construction of Exactitude,” addressing prominent architects’ responses to typology, history, and the monument. More recently, she has addressed in a multi-religious context the relationship between religion and modern architecture. Her books include the monograph *Auguste Perret*

(published by Phaidon in both English and French, 2001); the prize-winning *Hawaiian Modern* (Yale, 2008; edited with Dean Sakamoto); and the interdisciplinary *Constructing the Ineffable* (Yale, 2011). Her current book project, “Middle Ground / Middle East: Religious Sites in Urban Contexts” explores religious space in contemporary urbanism. Before coming to Yale, Britton was director of the architecture program in Paris of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and Associate Professor (adjunct) of Architecture. At Yale she is resident director of the Berkeley Center, an honorary member of the Manuscript Club, and a fellow at Saybrook College. Ms. Britton received a B.A. from the University of Colorado, Boulder; M.A. from Columbia University; and Ph.D. from Harvard University.



**Michael J. Crosbie, AIA**, has made significant contributions in the fields of architectural journalism, research, teaching, and practice. He studied architecture and received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Catholic University. He has served as an editor at *Architecture: The AIA Journal*, *Progressive Architecture*, *ArchitectureWeek.com*, and since 2001 he has served as editor-in-chief of *Faith & Form*, a quarterly journal on interfaith religious art and architecture. He is also a frequent contributor to *Oculus* magazine, *Architectural Record*, and writes about architecture and design for the *Hartford Courant*. He is the author of more than 15 books on architecture, including five books

for children. Dr. Crosbie is Chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Hartford, and has served as an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University and Catholic University. He has also lectured and served as a visiting critic at architecture schools in North America and abroad, including the University of California (Berkeley), the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, and the Moscow Architectural Institute. Dr. Crosbie has practiced with Centerbrook Architects and Steven Winter Associates, and is a registered architect in the State of Connecticut.



**Karsten Harries, PhD**: Karsten Harries was born in 1937 in Jena, Germany and trained at Yale University, where he received his Ph. D. in 1962 and is currently the Howard H. Newman Professor of Philosophy. Three years ago Yale University's School of Architecture, in recognition of his work in this area, awarded him the degree of Master of Environmental Design. The Architecture Faculty of the Brandenburgische Technische Universität in Cottbus, Germany, honored him with a Festschrift, *Himmel und Erde, Heaven and Earth*. He has taught at Yale since 1961, interrupted only by two years as an

assistant professor at the University of Texas in Austin (1963-65) and several years spent in Germany, twice as a visiting professor at the University of Bonn. He has published and lectured widely on Heidegger, early modern philosophy, and the philosophy of art and architecture. He is the author of more than 200 articles and reviews and of nine books: *The Meaning of Modern Art* (1968), *The Bavarian Rococo Church: Between Faith and Aestheticism* (1983), *The Broken Frame: Three Lectures* (1990), *The Ethical Function of Architecture* (1997), winner of the AIA 8th Annual International Architecture Book Award for Criticism, *Infinity and Perspective* (2001), *Art Matters: A Critical Commentary on Heidegger's The Origin of the Work of Art* (2009), *Die bayerische Rokokikirche: Das Irrationale und das Sakrale* (2009), a reworking of *The Bavarian Rococo Church* and *Between Nihilism and Faith: A Commentary on Either/Or* (2010). *Wahrheit: Die Architektur der Welt* is scheduled to appear in the fall. With Christoph Jamme he has edited *Martin Heidegger: Kunst, Politik, Technik* (1992), which appeared in an English version as *Martin Heidegger: Politics, Art, and Technology* (1994). In recent years more and more of his work has been directed to architects. As an intersection of art and technology, architecture has given him the possibility of exploring very concretely what today most interests him: the question of the legitimacy and limits of that objectifying reason that presides over our science and technology.



**Lindsay Jones** (Ph.D. History of Religions, University of Chicago) is a historian of religions, a professor in the Department of Comparative Studies, and the director of the Center for the Study of Religion at the Ohio State University. He combines long-term interests in architecture and in the comparative religion into foci on sacred architecture and ritual studies. The pre-Columbian ruins of Mesoamerica (that is, the remains of ceremonial centers constructed by Mayas, Zapotecs, Toltecs, Aztecs, etc.) have been an area of special concern.

Nonetheless, particularly in conjunction with several years of work as

editor in chief of a revised second edition of Mircea Eliade's 16-volume *Encyclopedia of Religion* (Macmillan Reference, 2005), he has cultivated widely cross-cultural interests in the myriad ways that built forms and technologies—from whole buildings, to manipulations of light and sound, to vestments and candles—facilitate the performance of rituals, and thereby enhance religious experience and expression. He is author of *Twin City Tales: A Hermeneutical Reassessment of Tula and Chichén Itzá* (University Press of Colorado, 1995); and *The Hermeneutics of Sacred Architecture: Experience, Interpretation, Comparison* (Harvard University Press, 2000), two volumes.



**Rebecca Krinke** is Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, and a multimedia artist and designer working in sculpture, installations, and site art. In broad terms, her creative practice and research deals with issues related to trauma and recovery - moving from body to space/from object to landscape - exploring trauma as it moves from individuals to societies to ecosystems and back again. Krinke's sculpture has focused on embodying trauma - using the body as a starting point - while her installations and site works have focused on ideas of recovery - through contemplative,

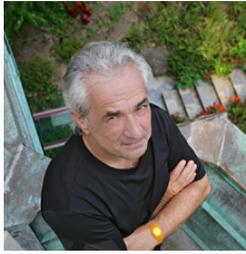
transformative environments. Krinke's published works also address the trauma-recovery dialectic and include: *Contemporary Landscapes of Contemplation* (editor) and chapters in *Manufactured Sites: Rethinking the Post-Industrial Landscape*. Krinke disseminates her work through gallery shows and temporary and permanent public works, which include the *Great Island Memorial Garden* (West Yarmouthport, MA, with Randall Imai, architect) and *Site Index/West Garden*, University of Minnesota, with John Roloff, public artist). This site works, as well as recent interior installations, such as the *Present Moment Project* (with Henry Emmons, MD and Diane Willow, artist) and *The Table for Contemplation and Action* can be seen as places and interventions that are reaching toward the transcendent in secular settings. Krinke's recent participatory, traveling, outdoor public artwork, *Unseen/Seen: The Mapping of Joy and Pain* embodied themes of trauma and recovery in the same piece, and created a temporary shared social space for emotional engagement and catharsis. For more information, see:

[www.rebeccakrinke.com](http://www.rebeccakrinke.com)



**Juhani Pallasmaa**, Finnish Architect, honorary FAIA, is one of the most lucid architectural theoreticians and practitioners in the world today. His many books, writings, exhibitions, and buildings are internationally renown. For example, his "*The Eyes of the Skin*" has become a classic book of architectural theory all over the world and his exhibitions of Finnish architecture have been displayed in more than 30 countries. Former State Artist Professor (1983-88); Director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture (1978- 83); Associate Professor at the Haile Selassie I University, Addis Abeba (1972-74); Director of

Exhibition Department at the Museum of Finnish Architecture (1968-72, 1974-83); Rector of the College of Crafts and Design (1970-72), and professor of architecture at the Helsinki University of Technology, Pallasmaa continues to run his own architecture office in Helsinki. He also often lectures and conducts workshop and seminars worldwide where his architectural philosophy and methods are shared with younger generations. He is an acting jury member of the Pritzker Prize, the most prestigious architectural award in the world.



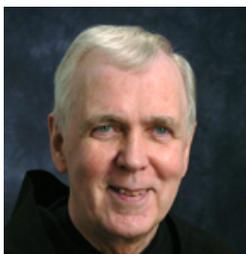
**Travis Price, FAIA**, is registered in 10 states including New York and the District of Columbia. His education, like his work, spans philosophy and architecture. He holds both a B.A. in Western Philosophy and Political Economics from St. John's College (the Great Books School). He was honored as Alumni of the Year in 1996, the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Annapolis campus. He also holds a combined Masters of Architecture from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. As the Director of Cultures & Sacred Masters Studies in Architecture at the

Catholic University of America, Price is a popular international lecturer at schools of architecture, environmental forums, the National AIA, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Geographic Society. Price has been featured in films, radio, and TV programs, including the nationally syndicated Kojo Nnamdi Show, the McNeil Lehrer Report, Discovery, and HGTV. His international publications include The New York Times, Architectural Record, Le Monde, BISES, Hauser, and Metropolitan Home. Born in Augusta, Georgia, and a father of two children, Travis lives in Washington, DC, while working with clients locally and around the world. (<http://www.travispricearchitects.com/>)



The recipient of numerous national and international awards, **Suzane Reatig's** work has been praised by journals and critics alike. New York Times critic Herbert Muschamp described her Metropolitan Community Church, the first newly constructed church for a gay congregation in America, as a "prodigy of the Washington cityscape, a building that recalls Maya Lin's Vietnam Memorial in its enlargement of emotional impact through a reduction of formal means... Ms. Reatig has made a place for sorting out feelings shattered almost beyond repair. It is a public space for private grief." Addressing the needs of

nonprofit groups and individual artist clients that often build in disadvantaged neighborhoods, her work demonstrates that modest budgets and big dreams can still support an architecture of remarkable character and high quality. A genuine love of place making and commitment to the needs of her clients has resulted in long list of awards and publications. These have caused constant pilgrimage to her built work. She has also lectured widely adding even more visitors anxious to experience her architecture. She is an inspiration for her peers and a tireless mentor and roll model for younger practitioners. As a featured speaker at the National AIA and frequent presenter at local AIA meetings, she continues to share her vision with architects who visit and experience her distinguished but unpretentious projects. (<http://www.reatig.com/>)



Fr. **Kevin Seasoltz**, Ph.D., is a Benedictine monk of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN. He was on the faculty of The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. for twenty-five years. He then became the rector of the Diocesan Seminary in Collegeville and a professor in the School of Theology in Saint John's University in Collegeville. For twenty-five years he has been the editor of the liturgical journal *Worship*, for which he was given the Michael Mathis Award by the University of Notre Dame. He has written numerous books, articles

and reviews, and has lectured extensively in the English-speaking world. He received the Berakah Award from the North American Academy of Liturgy and the Frederick McManus Award from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. His most recent books are *A Sense of the Sacred: Theological Foundations of Sacred Architecture and Art* (which was awarded first place in the liturgical division by the Catholic Press Association) and *God's Gift Giving: In Christ and*

*through the Spirit*, both published by Continuum International. His forthcoming book is *Virtue Morality, a Virtuous Church and Virtuous Worship*.



**Maged Senbel, Ph.D., CIP**, is a planner, urban designer and educator. He completed architecture degrees at the University of Oregon and McGill University and Planning degrees at the University of British Columbia. He is an Assistant Professor of Urban Design at the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on analytical methods and design strategies for making cities more ecologically sustainable as well as the deliberative, participatory and visualization processes that contribute to implementing those sustainable designs. Dr. Senbel conducts qualitative research on citizen access to neighborhood scale physical planning. He develops and tests new combinations of multi-media tools to improve public engagement related to urban resilience and climate change mitigation and adaptation. His current research is on social mobilization and reflective practice for climate change planning through visualization media and social media respectively. Dr. Senbel has numerous publications in the areas of public engagement in local neighborhood planning particularly as it relates to environmental issues, sustainability and climate change. He is particularly interested in leadership and the creation of empowering narratives that cultivate hope and inspiration for social change. He has lectured widely on environmental values in Islam and the relationship between individual spirituality, urban design and environmentally and socially conscious behavior. Dr. Senbel's professional work traverses architecture, planning and urban design. He has taught courses in architectural design, housing, urban design, planning, landscape architecture, leadership, sustainable development and creativity. Dr. Senbel is an award winning teacher and community-based scholar with a passion for pedagogical innovation.



Dr. **Michael Sheridan** has over 16 years experience as a social work practitioner and administrator in health, mental health, juvenile and criminal justice, and family service settings. She has been a social work educator for 20 years, currently on the faculty of the National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University, where she teaches courses in transpersonal theory and spirituality, diversity and social justice, international social development, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and human behavior theory. Dr. Sheridan has made numerous scholarly contributions in the area of spirituality and social work, publishing both conceptual and empirical writings and developing research tools that have been used by other researchers of spirituality in various parts of the world. She also serves as Director of the *Center for Spirituality and Social Work* at NCSSS and was a founding member of the *Society for Spirituality and Social Work*, an international organization committed to supporting the development of innovative approaches to spirituality-sensitive social work practice, education, and research. She recently was Coordinator of the 6th North American Conference on Spirituality and Social Work, which focused on the related hungers for spirituality and social justice in today's world. This connection between spirituality and social justice – and the relevance of both to architecture - will be the central focus of her presentation today.



A fervent commitment to the principles of classical architecture and urbanism imbues architect **Duncan Stroik**'s teaching, writing, and architectural practice. Well known for his ecclesiastical buildings, his portfolio includes cathedrals, parish churches, shrines and university chapels across the United States as well as residential, commercial, and educational buildings. He received his B.S. in architecture from the University of Virginia and a M. Arch. from Yale University in 1987. In addition to his design and teaching work, Professor Stroik is the editor of the semi-annual journal *Sacred Architecture*, which he established in 1998. He has also co-edited the monograph

*Reconquering Sacred Space 2000: The Church in the City of the Third Millennium* (Rome: Il Bosco e la Nave, 2000) and is currently working on a book with Liturgy Training Publications entitled *Beauty, Transcendence, and the Eternal*. In addition to his books and journal, he has authored pieces for *Traditional Building*, *Faith & Form*, *First Things*, and *American Arts Quarterly*. His work and ideas have been featured in such publications as the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, *Inside the Vatican*, and *Traditional Building*. Professor Stroik and his work have appeared on PBS and on A&E in Bob Vila's series *In Search of Palladio*.. (<http://www.stroik.com/> )



**Sue Ann Taylor**, Ph.D., is a Public Anthropologist-in-Residence in the Department of Anthropology at American University and an independent consultant in urban anthropology with a focus on place, memory and memorialization. Dr. Taylor received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts in 1978. Her early research and practice was in the areas of medical anthropology and gerontology. She was the Director of the Master's Degree Program in Applied Medical Anthropology at Wayne State University (1978-1985). She served on state and national boards being appointed state commissioner on the Michigan Commission for Services to the Aged

(1981-1984) and was a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. Based on research on the coping strategies of older women, Dr. Taylor commented on "Religion as a Coping Mechanism for Older Black Women" (*Quarterly Contact*, 1982). Recently, she completed an oral history project for the National Park Service and served as a consultant to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund on site selection for the Vietnam Veterans Education Center. Working closely with the architect of record, Dr. Taylor provided support for the site that best fit mandatory legislation to place the center "at or near" the Memorial. Publications include *Conserving Place: Prince William Forest Park 1900-1945* (with co-author Arvilla Payne-Jackson) (National Park Service, 2008) and *Prince William Forest Park: The African American Experience* (National Park Service, 2000). Dr. Taylor serves on the editorial board of Berghahn Books for New Series Titled: *Life Course, Culture and Aging: Global Transformation* and the Academic Advisory Board for *Taking Sides: Controversial Issues in Death and Dying*. Dr. Taylor's extensive background and current work on place, memory and meaning provides an opportunity to address sacred places through the lens of anthropology.



**Richard S. Vosko, Ph.D., Hon. AIA**, a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Albany, NY, has been a sacred space planner for Christian and Jewish congregations throughout North America since 1970. The past chair of IFRAA, he is a member of the Synagogue 3000 Advisory Board and the board of the Society for Art, Religion and Contemporary Culture. He is also a member of the editorial committee for *Faith & Form*, a journal on religious art and architecture. His portfolio contains award-winning projects like Central Synagogue (New York) and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (Los Angeles). His many personal honors include the Elbert M. Conover Award from AIA

IFRAA, the Georgetown University Center for Liturgy Award and the *Berakah* Award, the highest honor given by the North American Academy of Liturgy, for his scholarship and practice in liturgical design. He is the author of *God's House is Our House: Re-Imagining the Environment for Worship* and is currently writing a compendium on all the Roman Catholic Cathedrals in the United States. A frequent lecturer on religion, art and architecture, Vosko is interested in how the built environment shapes the behavior of a congregation before, during and after worship. (<http://www.rvosko.com/> )



**Thomas Walton's** 25-year career in teaching at The Catholic University of America's School of Architecture and Planning focused on design as an expression of social and cultural values and the rich layers of meaning embedded in architecture. These are essential themes in the history courses he developed. They also emerge in his research and writing on such topics as the great 1920s skyscraper race in New York City, the history of the planning and development of Washington, DC, and his volume on corporate architecture in the late-Twentieth century. In an interesting evolution of his commitment to

these ideas, he determined, in 2003, to take a position with the U.S. General Services Administration in its Design Excellence Program, an initiative that has reinvigorated the importance of federal building as a symbol of our open government and democratic values. Within this broad context, a particular passion has been the analysis of church architecture and sacred space, particularly in contemporary society where these realities struggle to find presence and place and illuminate human meaning in a world overwhelmed by the profane. Walton received his MArch (1976) and Ph.D. (1980) from The Catholic University of America. He was honored as the University Teacher of the Year. For the past 21 years he has been editor of the Design Management Institute's *Design Management Review*, addressing the importance of design as a business resource. He has lectured for such organizations as the American Institute of Architects and the Smithsonian Institution and served as a consultant to the National Endowment for the Arts.



**Mark E. Wedig, Ph.D.**, is Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Chair of the Department of Theology and Philosophy, and Professor of Theology at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. He is a Dominican Friar of the Province of St. Martin de Porres (Southern Province, USA). Wedig's academic background is as follows: the B.A. in History/Medieval Studies from Southern Methodist University; the Master of Divinity and M.A. in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union; and the PhD in liturgical studies from the Catholic University of America. As a

teacher and scholar of theology, Rev. Wedig's interests lie in the areas of liturgy, sacramental theology and the religious hermeneutics of architecture and the visual arts. He has particular

interest in the postmodern inculturation of ritual and visual Christianity. Some of his publications concerning sacred art and architecture include the following: Chapter Five - The Arrangement and Furnishing of Churches for the Celebration of the Eucharist: De Ecclesiarum Dispositione et Ornatu ad Eucharistiam Celebrandam, (with Richard Vosko) *A Commentary on the General Instruction of the Roman Missal 2002* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2007); "No Neutral Zones: Hermeneutics and the Interpretation of Liturgical Space," *Liturgical Ministry* 14 (Winter 2005), "Edifice and Image: Reform of the Roman Catholic Worship Environment," *New Theology Review* (August 2002). "The Visual Hermeneutics of Hispanic/Latino Popular Religion and the Recovery of the Image in Christian Praxis," *Journal of Hispanic/Latino Theology* (February 2001)

### *About the Symposium Director*



**Julio Bermudez** is an Associate Professor of Architecture and directs the Sacred Space and Cultural Studies graduate concentration at the Catholic University School of Architecture and Planning. He holds a Master's in Architecture and a Ph.D. in Education degrees from the University of Minnesota. He has been teaching architectural design, theory and representation for over 20 years. Dr. Bermudez's work is focused in *architectural phenomenology*, *voluntary architectural simplicity*, and the *relationship between architecture, culture and spirituality*. He has lectured, led symposia, and published articles in these areas nationally and internationally. Current projects include a fMRI study of architecturally induced contemplative states, the continuous analysis of results from a large survey on profound phenomenologies of place, and work on a book manuscript on the architectural extraordinary. Bermudez co-founded and co-directs the Forum for Architecture, Culture and Spirituality ([www.acsforum.org](http://www.acsforum.org)). Bermudez has received several national and international recognitions including the 1998 AIA Education Honors Award, the 2004-05 ACSA Creative Achievement Award, the 2005 Montagu Creative Career Prize by SiGraDi (a Latin American organization), the 2006 ACADIA Award for Teaching Excellence, and the 2010 Sasada Award (conferred by CAADRIA, Asia). For more details, visit <http://faculty.cua.edu/bermudez/>