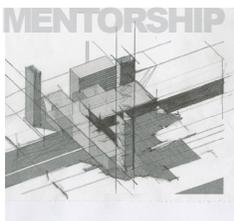


1.0 SUMMARY



Through artfully crafting only what is absolutely necessary, Joseph Biondo manifests an inherent and lasting relevance in his architecture. These designs of pragmatic beauty are like the castings of partis carved for tangible experiences. They are constructs which compliment and settle into a larger, collective, built environment.

Joseph celebrates the process of making and is influenced by his family background, rooted in Pennsylvania's material industries whose influence on the region's social and urban development is not fully grasped today. Joe has embraced Pennsylvania's post industrial decline with renewed energy, transforming brownfields and "Low Road" districts into cultural destinations through projects that aim to remind the pulic of a site's history and take advantage of emphasizing aspects of unique geocultural experience. His design for ArtsQuest Center on Bethlehem's abandoned steel site has won the 2013 Architizer award for Architecture + Urban Transformation, The 2012 AIA PA Silver Medal, was voted ArchDailys 2011 building of the year, and has been featured in Italian magazine *Casabella*. His work which comprises Lafayette College's Visual Arts Campus has won the 2002 AIA PA Silver Medal and has been featured in the 2011 Prague Quadrennial representing the United States. The success of these projects have garnered national and international attention prompting Joseph's invitation to talk at a 2013 National Building Museum panel about opportunities for urban repositioning in post industrial landscapes.

Joseph's sensitive responsiveness to region and site began with his design for Bohlin Cywinski Jackson's Ledge House, which is a materialization of a region's nature in a clarity of tectonic form. In a self titled monologue published by RockPort Publishers, Will Bruder gives an account of his visit to the house. "In this work, extremes, edges, and eccentricity combine to form an original, inspired whole. This is a moment at a clearing in the woods where stone meets log, idea meets reality, invention meets craft, function meets beauty, and the past meets the present. It is a place where the magic of architecture inspires one to relax and dream of what might be!" A decade later the desire to challenge the homogeneity of low quality housing inspired the design of House Equanimity (2005). Its construction, inspired from the ruins sited on its home in the concrete birthplace of America, takes on various forms which relate to topography, vegetation, and their own ruination over time. This house, nationally recognized in Phillip's and Yamashita's *Detail in Contemporary Architecture* will soon gain international recognition. In 2017 a self-titled hardcover book will feature the project as a part of Oscar Riera Ojeda Publisher's Masterpiece Series, one of 20 books to feature houses by internationally acclaimed architects such as Alberto Campo Baeza and Tom Kundig.

As a passionate practitioner of Architecture, Joseph is actively involved in sharing how artfully crafting what is absolutely necessary can transcend momentary concerns. He has shared this stance through his talks such as "Craft and Making" for AIA Iowa 2016, or writings such as "The Context of Continuity" for 2015 Kansas State University OZ, featured amongst writings by David Adjaye, Marlon Blackwell, and Allied Works Architecture. But perhaps most important in influencing building culture is to start from the ground up. Joseph directly mentors young professionals in Spillman Farmer Architects' office almost like a traditional apprenticeship to ensure the office culture is rooted in design excellence, putting others before ego. This surge of design culture was vital in the firm's inaugural Firm Award from AIA Pennsylvania in 2013. It has also led to two apprentices winning the Syracuse University Thesis in 2013 and the John Stewardson 113th Memorial Apprenticeship (Pennsylvania's most prestigious student competition) in 2014. Joseph has most recently spread his roots into Lafayette College's design program. For his third consecutive year, he has introduced students of varying backgrounds to the importance of architecture, encouraging them to become active shapers of our built environment, regardless of their role as designer or client.