

## Profiles in Emerging Leaders

The Virginia Society AIA Emerging Leaders in Architecture program is designed to develop future leaders in architecture firms, in communities, and in the profession. The year-long program consists of seven day-long leadership development seminars and culminates in the presentation of a group project at Architecture Exchange East. If you would like to submit a nomination or if you are interested in participating in the Emerging Leaders in Architecture class of 2010, please contact [wconners@aiava.org](mailto:wconners@aiava.org).

### 5 Questions We're Asking Everyone



#### R. Corey Clayborne, AIA, LEED AP

*What building evoked a strong reaction from you recently—either positive or negative?* The Taubman Museum in Roanoke, Va. Honestly, I cannot say that I am in love with the explosive attributes, but I can appreciate the creativity.

*What is the last book you read?* *Tales from the Top* by Graham Alexander. An easy quick read, great for emerging leaders.

*How did you discover your passion for architecture?* It has always been a strong interest of mine. There was no defining moment. There is just something about a space having the power to make you say, "Wow, this is awesome."

*What is your favorite thing to do to relax?* I wish I could do this more often. Laying on the beach, listening to the waves crash and the ocean breeze roll by....leaving the cell phone in the hotel room.

*What advice do you have for aspiring architects?* Architecture is a profession where you have to "find yourself." Everyone has strengths and weaknesses which will help define your

role within the firm. Honestly, you may not have the talent to produce award winning building designs. That's OK. You may have extremely strong leadership attributes, business development skills, or a similar characteristic. These qualities also can elevate your career to new heights.

#### Jen Stringer, Associate AIA

*What building evoked a strong reaction from you recently—either positive or negative?* Oddly enough it wasn't really the building, but a relationship that existed between two sets of buildings. I recently discovered Sambo Mockbee's reference to UVA within the Southern vernacular of Rural Studio's gallery space known as The Bailey no more than a mile down from our main studio The Morrisette House. So similar yet juxtaposed from Campbell Hall and UVA's Bailey.

*What is the last book you read?* I'm reading *Tribes* by Seth Godin, and *The Art of Influence* by Chris Widner. However I am flying through a certain novel series that I will keep to myself to lest I bring my maturity level into question!

*How did you discover your passion for architecture?* It was always a part of me. From the time my parents designed and built their house when I was young, I had a strong awareness of the built environment and how it made me feel and think. That awareness only grew into passion as years passed.

*What is your favorite thing to do to relax?* I like connecting with the earth in my garden. I find the structure of nature enthralling. Painting and reading threaten to overtake my life if I allow them, but they remove some stress.

*What advice do you have for aspiring architects?* Keep your mind on the relationship between Architecture and the Process of architecture. Give it everything you have and don't hold back! Keep asking questions.



Schellhammer and wombats

#### Christopher Paul Schellhammer, AIAS

*What building evoked a strong reaction from you recently—either positive or negative?* The Alte Pinakoteek in Munich Germany. Of the many impressive buildings visited during a 10-day visit in January '09, this building surprised me the most. I was blind to what the building offered upon my initial self-guided walk of the area. It was only a day later, with knowledgeable Virginia Tech faculty that some of this building's attributes were disclosed. Further, I took it upon myself to research the building, the architect and the context for a graduate level lecture series at Virginia Tech. This lecture can be downloaded here: [http://www.schellhammer.info/remembering\\_forgetting.pdf](http://www.schellhammer.info/remembering_forgetting.pdf).

*What is the last book you read?* *In Praise of Shadows*, by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki

*How did you discover your passion for architecture?* In daydreams.

*What is your favorite thing to do to relax?* I love to go fishing with my little wombat.

*What advice do you have for aspiring architects?* Well, I believe I will be an aspiring architect for most of my life, so I think the only appropriate advice I have lies with the word aspiring—be true to the thing(s) that compel you.

now at [www.aiava.org](http://www.aiava.org)

## The VSAIA Job Board

View open positions or post openings; members pay only \$100 for a 60-day posting—take a look today!