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August 26, 2021

Gould Hall 208F
3950 University Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105

To Professor Simonen,

Please accept this letter of interest to lead a section of the Architecture 200 course. I am very interested in this position. I have a great respect for the UW faculty and a longstanding interest in representation as a foundational element for the field of architecture. I had the opportunity to work alongside Judith Swain for Architecture 200 as a graduate student assistant in 2016. I was impressed by her professionalism, enthusiasm for the field, and her commitment to her students. I feel that I share these common values and would work well with her and other faculty members.

I have a strong interest in expanding equitable access to the field of architecture. As a co-chair of AIA Seattle's Women in Design, I strive to foster opportunities for students and professionals at all levels to share information and resources, explore leadership opportunities, and cultivate meaningful relationships. Additionally, I sit on AIA Seattle's JEDI Task Force, which aims to identify, name and dismantle systemic discrimination within the architecture community, while promoting universal inclusion and equity within the built environment. I have an ongoing interest in sharing my enthusiasm for architecture with students. In addition to my experience as a UW graduate student assistant, I have experience as a guest lecturer at Colorado College and have volunteered with the ACE Mentor Program and Seattle Architecture Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please call or email if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Yates

MICHELLE YATES

AIA, LEED AP BD+C

michellekyates@gmail.com

206.718.4226

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

01.2017 - Present

Architect

Bassetti Architects, Seattle

I am a registered architect with five years of experience in new and existing construction with a focus on K-12 educational projects. My current project is Highline High School, which I have had a role on the design team from pre-design through Construction Administration. I am a thorough and thoughtful designer who looks for opportunities for delight in every project.

EDUCATION

09. 2013 - 12. 2016

Master of Architecture

University of Washington, Seattle WA

08.2015 - 12. 2015

Architecture Exchange Studies

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

09. 2008 - 05. 2012

Bachelor of Art, Major: Art Studio

Colorado College, Colorado Springs

Honors: Departmental distinction, cum laude, Dean's list

TEACHING AND SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

03. 2017

Alumni Panelist

Colorado College

- Speaker on alumni panel for 2017 Design Week discussing career paths for those with an Art Studio education.

09.2016 - 12. 2016

Graduate Student Assistant Instructor, Arch 200: Intro to Drawing

College of the Built Environment, University of Washington, Seattle

- Prepared workshops related to hand and digital drawing techniques
- Supported class instruction and provided individual critiques

05.2015 - 08. 2016

Graduate Student Assistant Instructor, Arch 100 Studio: Intro to Architecture

College of the Built Environment, University of Washington, Seattle

- Helped prepare lectures, walking tours, and workshops
- Provided independent desk critiques with students

04. 2013

Post-Graduate Guest Lecturer

Colorado College

- Awarded honorarium for a formal presentation on sculptural work
- Guest reviewer for an introductory sculpture class

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 09.2019-Present **Current Co-Chair**
AIA Women in Design, Seattle
I have taken a leadership role in the following events and installations.
- Conversations Towards Equitable Practice Series
 - Meaningful Mentorship Panel and Round Table
 - Business of Architecture Series
 - “This is What an Architect Looks Like” 2016 Seattle Design Festival
 - “Power Pose” 2017 Seattle Design Festival
 - “Scavenger Bingo Time” 2020 Seattle Design Festival
- 01.2021-Present **Committee Member**
AIA Justice and Equity for Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Task Force, Seattle
- Member of the recently formed AIA task force, which aims to nurture universal inclusion within the built environment
- 10.2018 - 05.2019 **Mentor**
ACE Mentor Program, Seattle
- Participated in an interdisciplinary mentorship group for high school students interested in pursuing careers in architecture, engineering and construction.
- 04.2018 - 11.2018 **Conceptual Design Team Member: Central Hills Triangle Collective**
Lid I-5, Seattle
- Contributed to an interdisciplinary design team proposing a conceptual master plan to develop over Interstate 5 in the Pike-Pine Corridor
- 06.2016 - 09.2016 **‘Map the Square’ Team Member**
AIA Young Architects Forum, Seattle
- Participated in the design, planning, and fabrication of the Map the Square project for the 2016 Seattle Design Festival
 - 2016 AIA Seattle Honor Awards: Conceptual Honorable Mention
- 02.2011 - 05.2012 **Student Representative**
Colorado College Design Review Board, Colorado Springs
- One of two student members on the campus Design Review Board
 - Reviewed new and proposed campus design projects
 - Researched and presented a report on issues associated with current campus signage

SOFTWARE SKILLS

2D Drawing 3D Modeling

Revit
Rhinoceros
Sketch-up

Rendering

Vray
Enscape

Graphics

Photoshop
Illustrator
InDesign

REFERENCES

Lindsay Crawford, Senior Associate
Bassetti Architects
lcrawford@bassettiarch.com
206.536.1373

Lindsay is the Project Architect for Highline High School. I worked closely with him on this project from Programming through Construction Administration.

Kristian Kicinski, Associate Principal
Bassetti Architects
kkicinski@bassettiarch.com
206.536.1370

Kristian and I worked through the programming and schematic design phases on Highline High School together. Kristian is my professional mentor at Bassetti.

Work Sample | Michelle Yates

Professional Work

Highline High School, Burien, Washington

Bassetti Architects

Highline High School is a 291,000 square foot building replacing a previous school on the same site originally constructed in 1923. It is designed to accommodate 1,500 students and is organized around eight learning clusters aimed to facilitate project based learning. I have had a consistent role on the design team from pre-design through construction administration. I look forward to seeing the school open its doors to students in September 2021!



Lower Commons



Servery and Dining



Main Gymnasium

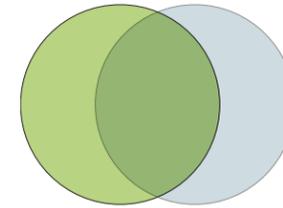


Principal in Charge: Dan Miles
Project Manager: Mark Smedley
Project Architect: Lindsay Crawford
Architectural Design Team: Abby Jones, Alan Dodson, Amanda Hoehn, Hung-Nan Chen, Jansen Bennett, Michelle Yates, Preston Mossing

M. Arch Thesis

Building Better Schools: A New Model for Autism Inclusion in Seattle

This thesis proposes that by addressing the sensory and spatial needs of autistic learners the educational environment can better serve the diverse needs of all students. This proposition is tested through the design of an elementary-level inclusion school in the Atlantic Neighborhood of Seattle.



Integration

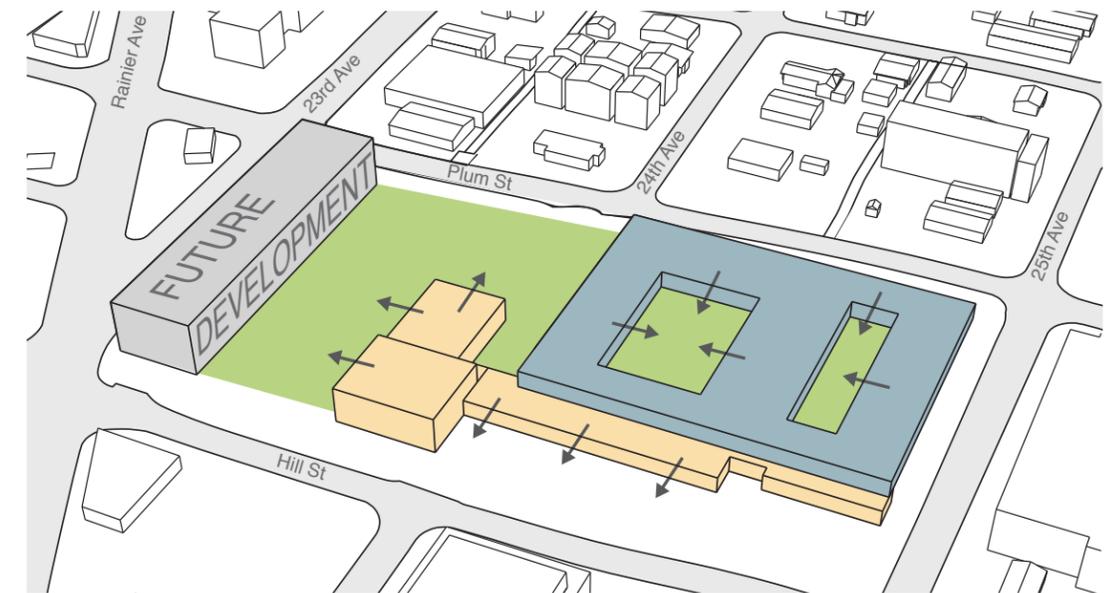


Predictability

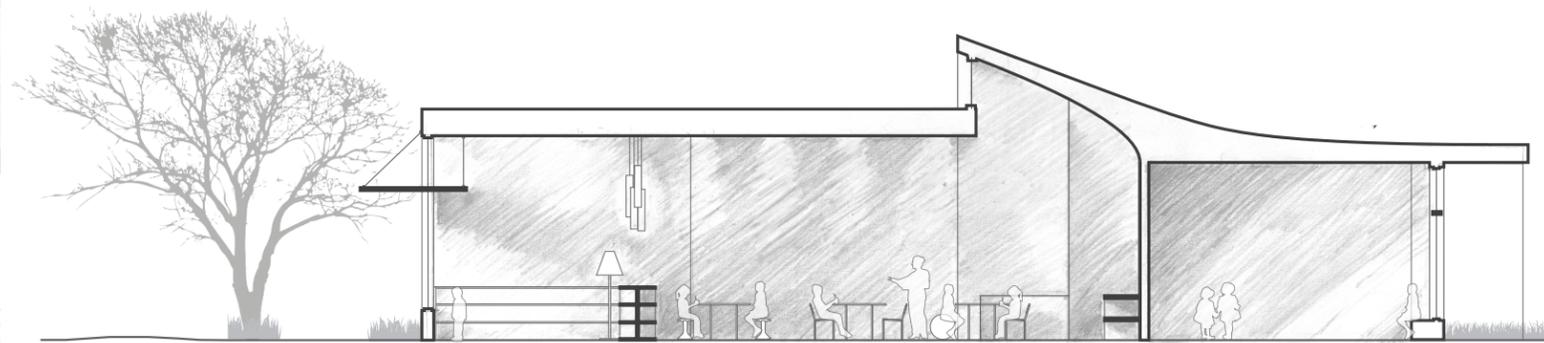


Sensory Information Control

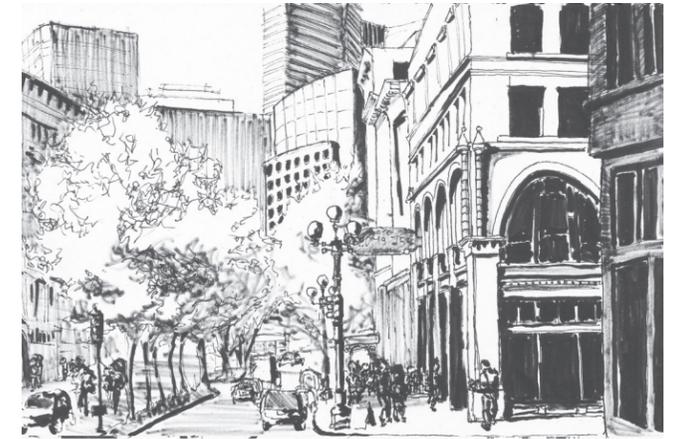
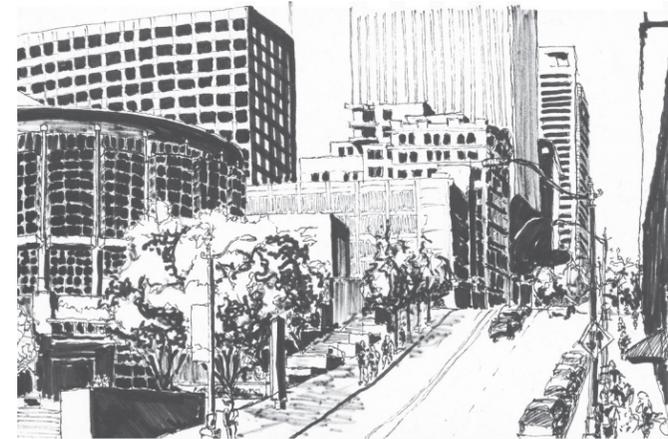
The design of Atlantic Elementary demonstrates how designing to the spatial and sensory needs of autistic students results in better spaces for everyone. The design approach focuses on a schematic-level design of the entire school with greater detail focused on a classroom, interior courtyard, learning commons, and the dining hall. In this way, the design explores a representative low-sensory space, high-sensory space, collaborative zone and exterior space. The general layout of the school is organized around the notion of sensory zoning.



Courtyard Section Looking North



Classroom Section Looking North



OBSERVATIONAL SKETCHES

I use sketching from observation as a strategy for understanding the built environment. I enjoy examining a variety of scales in my sketchbook from zoomed-in views of architectural details to a larger urban understanding of the relationship between buildings, streets, and landscape.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Navigating Trust: The Wayfinder, 2018 Seattle Design Festival



The theme of the 2018 Seattle Design Festival was trust, an essential component of every successful collaboration. The Bassetti team presented an interactive game that required two people to collaborate to succeed.

The game was inspired by children's marble mazes that rely on tilting the playing surface back and forth to navigate. In this scaled up version two players have to work together to get the marble (ball) to its final destination.



Team: Brittney Denning, Connie Zeng, Elaine Daniels, Kristian Kicinski, Lindsay Crawford, Michelle Yates, Preston Mossing

Map the Square, 2016 Seattle Design Festival



Select a tag



Mark needed intervention



Interventions recorded in A-Gallery

The Map the Square installation sought public input on the physical design changes needed to transform Pioneer Square into a unified, lively and attractive urban district. The project invited community members to identify areas in need of change by answering the following two questions by physically leaving markers in the neighborhood.

1. What physical elements would you like to see in Pioneer Square?
2. Where should these design elements be located?

Responses were aggregated and displayed on a physical map in the A-Gallery and digitally using social media.

Young Architects Forum Team: Tya Abe, Jacqui Aiello, Maribel Barba, Jesse Chapman, Rob Deane, Jessica Hardin, TJ Hobing, Joseph Knight, Grace Lounsbury, Carl Leighty, Arti Patel, Brittney Porter, Shannon Payton, Yes Segura, Samira Yasmin, Michelle Yates