

Urban Design Commission
City Hall
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

March 22, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the call for the Urban Design Commission alternate member applications. I am a licensed architect in Massachusetts and I have almost twenty years experience working on large scale, transformative projects.

Some of the projects I have acted as a designer and project architect on include;

- One Rincon Hill. San Francisco CA | SCB Architects
- Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Chicago, IL | SCB Architects (not constructed)
- 345 Harrison Ave. Boston, MA | CBT Architects
- 22 Liberty St. Boston, MA | CBT Architects
- Cambridge Crossing Parcel I. Boston MA | CBT Architects (under construction)

Through my participation in these projects I am involved many tasks such as reviewing how the building mass responds to adjacent properties, studying view corridors through perspective studies, understanding how and where the building activates activity at the ground plane, reviewing how shadows are cast in nearby areas, and responding architecturally to the neighborhood and adjacent properties. I think that my experience on these projects could be useful to the city in reviewing applications and providing positive design feedback.

My interest in assisting the city and the community was sparked by a recent multi-family project on Broadway in Winter Hill. The building that was constructed did not providing a positive improvement to the pedestrian experience, it did not enhance the architectural character of the neighborhood, and the ground level retail remains vacant several years later. It is my hope that through participation in the UDC I can help projects make positive improvements to neighborhoods.

I have enjoyed being involved with Winter Hill Neighborhood Association, the Gilman Square Neighborhood Association, and Somervision 2040 and I hope I can also participate in the Somerville UDC. I appreciate your time in reviewing my application, and I look forward to more great future conversations to improve the pedestrian experience, create a more cohesive urban fabric, and assisting applicants in providing great architectural features to improve the character of neighborhoods.



Attached please find a few examples of my project work.
Thank you for your consideration.
Timothy Houde



Timothy Houde

EDUCATION

Syracuse University | Syracuse, NY | 2003
Bachelor of Architecture
Deans Scholar

WORK EXPERIENCE

CBT Architects | Boston, MA | 2012- present
Designer/ Project Architect
Associate Chair
Communications Council Chair
Revit Power Users Group Member

Dewberry | Boston, MA | 2010-2012
Designer/ Project Architect

Solomon Cordwell Buenz | Chicago, Il | 2005-2010
Designer/ Project Architect

S.O.M. | Chicago, IL | 2005
Contract Designer/ Draftsman

Bergmeyer Associates | Boston, MA | 2003-2005
Designer/ Drafter

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston Architectural College | 2003-2005
Portfolio Design
3D/ Orthogonal Drawing
Perspective Drawing

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Construction Documents
Revit, AutoCAD, MasterSpec

3D Modeling/ Rendering
Revit Cloud, Sketch-up V-Ray, Rhino, 3D Studio Max

Graphics
Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere, InDesign)

Web
HTML 5.0, Javascript, CSS, Adobe Flash, Adobe Dreamweaver, Cold fusion, PHP & MySQL

SELECTED WORKS

Hospitality
5 Star Hotel | Boston, MA | current
Project Architect for renovation of existing hotel rooms and new public amenity spaces.

Repositioning
One Memorial Drive | Cambridge, MA | 2016-2018
Designer/ Project Architect for repositioning of existing parking floor into a new office floor.

Multi-Family
345 Harrison Ave | Boston, MA | 2014-2016
Designer/ Project Architect for new 14 story, 585 luxury rental property.

22 Liberty Dr. | Boston, MA | 2013-2014
Designer/ Project Architect for new 14 story, 109 luxury condominium property.

Academic
Miami Univ. of Ohio: Etheridge Hall Dorm | 2012
Project Architect for new residence hall

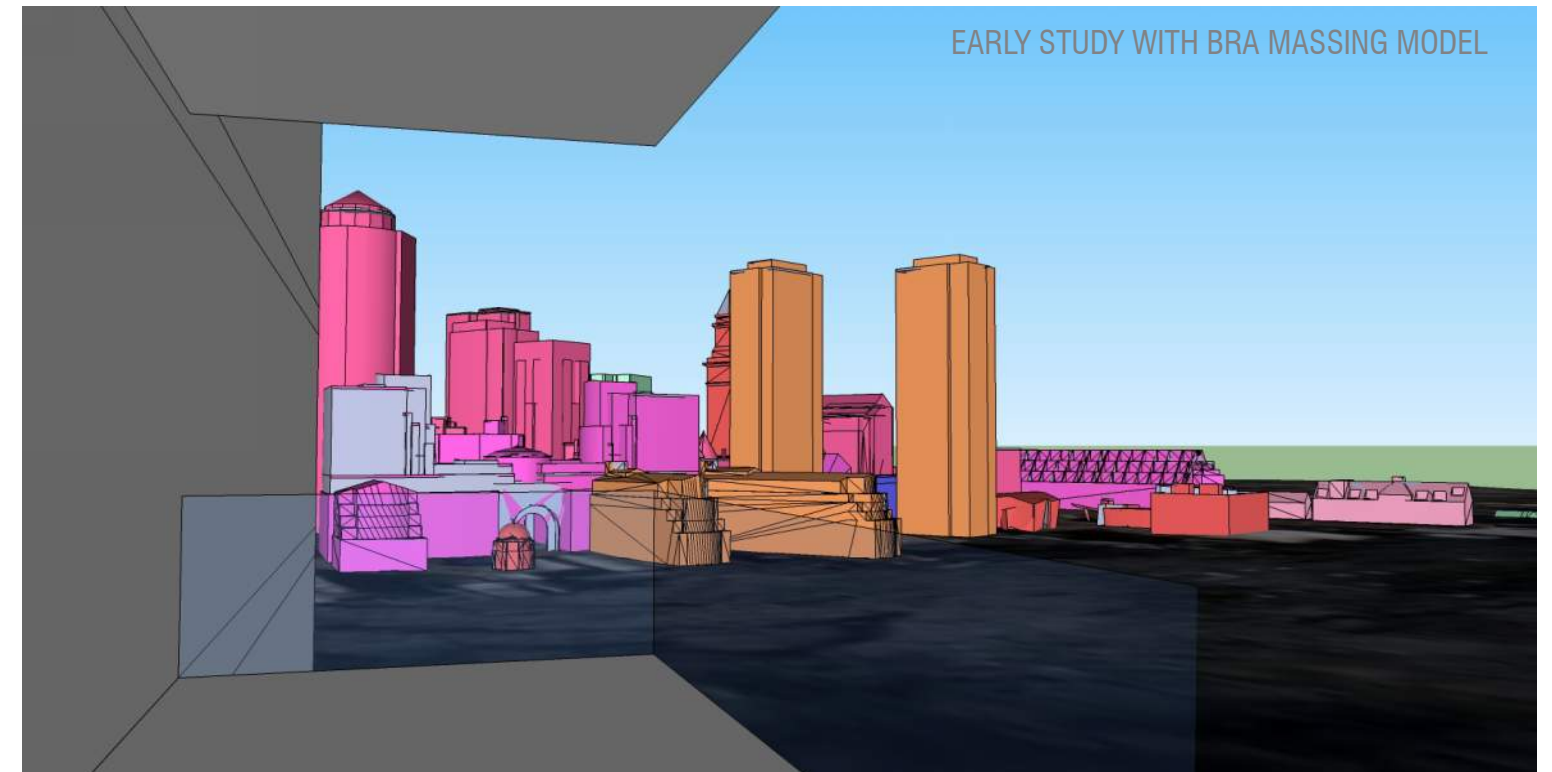
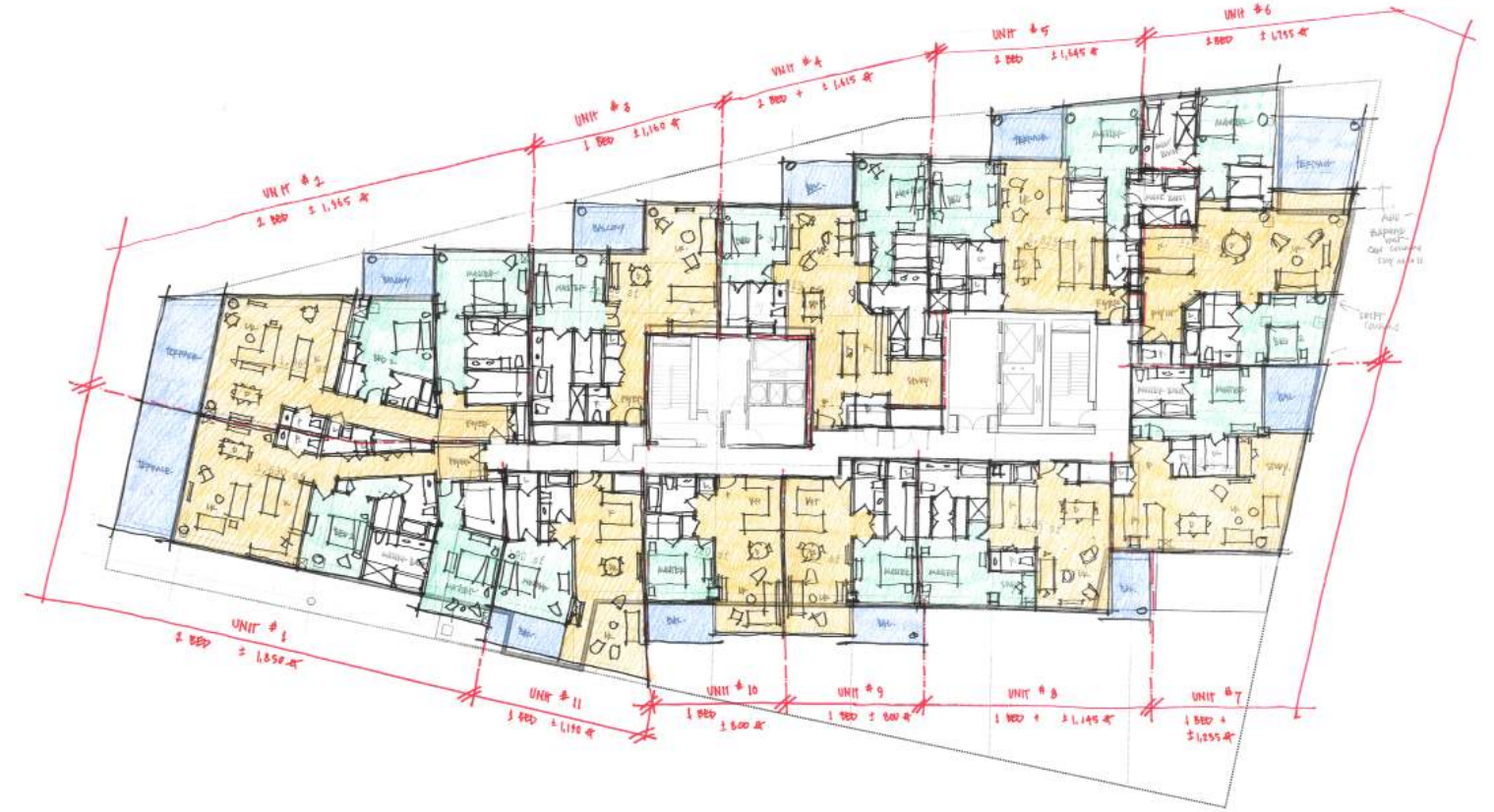
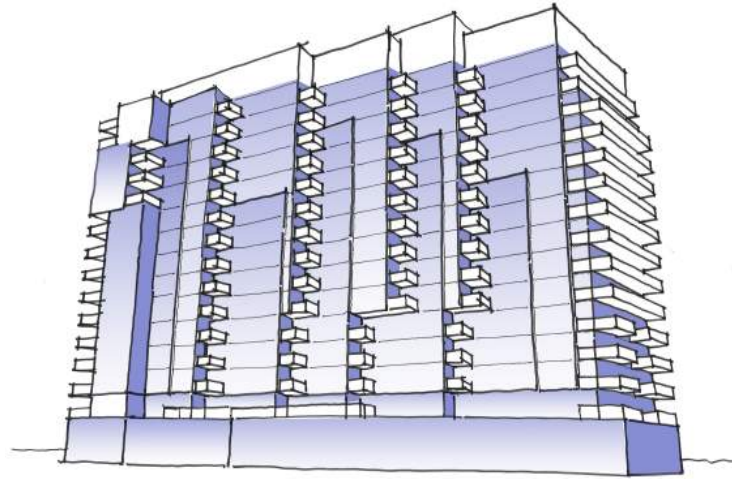
Miami Univ. of Ohio: Western Dining Hall | 2012
Project Architect for new residence hall

22 LIBERTY | BOSTON, MA

LUXURY MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

TIMOTHY R. HOUDE

CONCEPT STUDIES

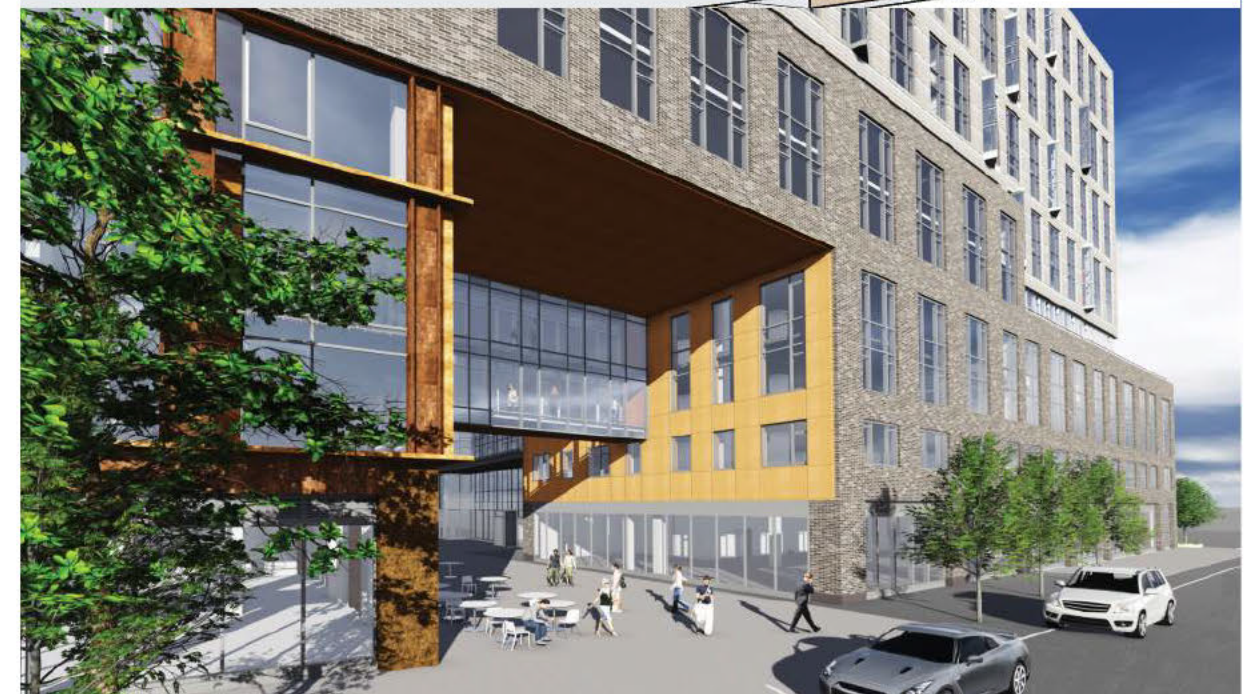
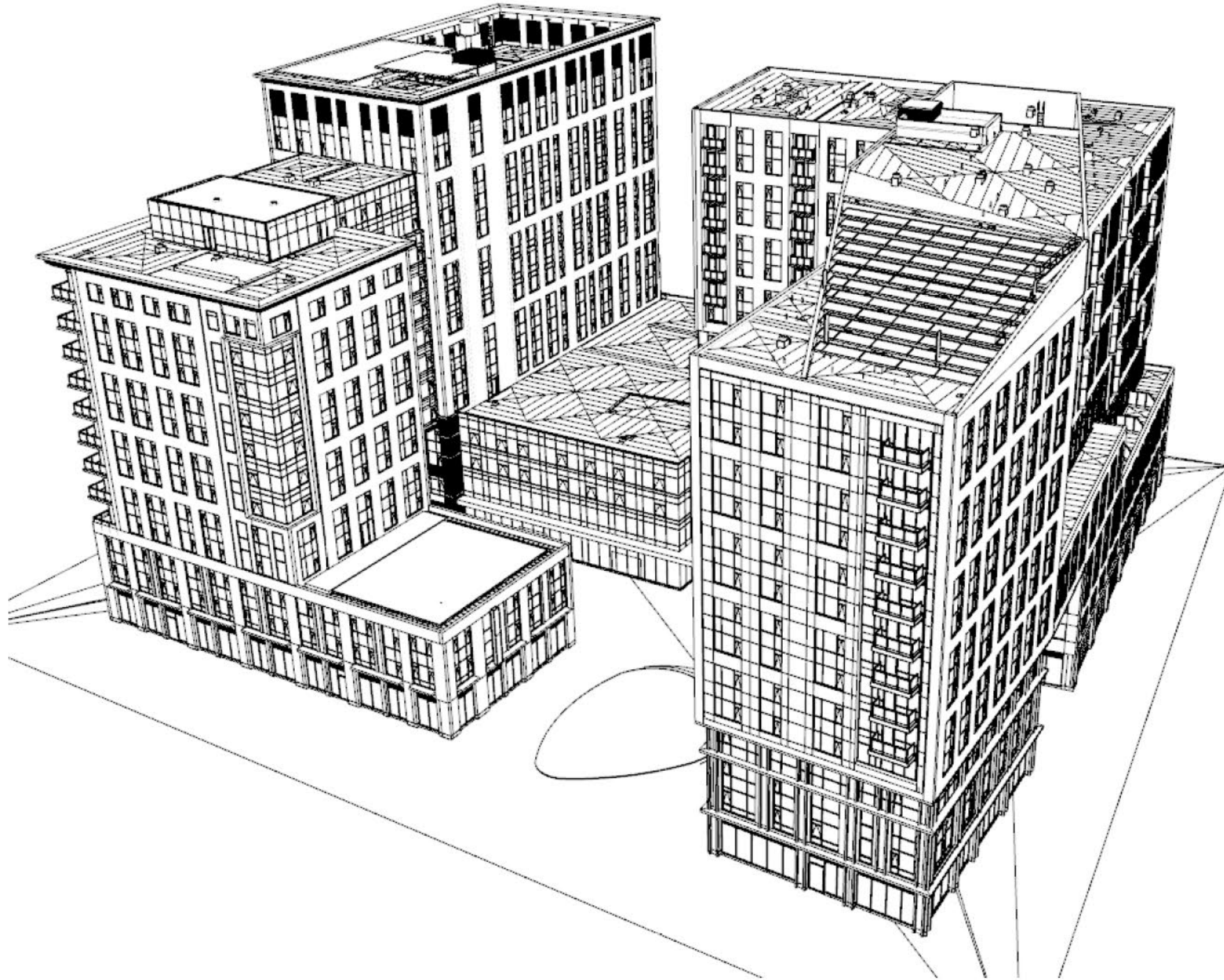


345 HARRISON AVE. | BOSTON, MA

MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

CONCEPT STUDIES - BRIDGE

TIMOTHY R. HOUDE



MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL | CHICAGO, IL

LUXURY MULTI-FAMILY/ HOTEL

TIMOTHY R. HOUDE



Sarah Lewis
Director of Planning
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

May 12, 2021

Dear Ms. Lewis:

I am writing to express my interest in consideration for a position on the Urban Design Commission. I have been a resident of Somerville for the past twenty years and currently live in Ward 3. During this time, I have volunteered with several community organizations including Union Square Main Streets, Design Review Committee, Groundwork Somerville, and the Somerville Growing Center.

Professionally, I am a licensed landscape architect with over twenty-five years' experience with a variety of public park, streetscape, campus, and institutional projects.

It would be an honor to be considered for the Urban Design Commission, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,



Cheri Ruane, FASLA



BACKGROUND

2015-Present
Vice President | Practice Leader
Weston & Sampson

2006-2015
Practice Leader | Senior Associate
Weston & Sampson

2005-Present
Visiting Lecturer and Studio
Instructor
Harvard Graduate School of Design

2001-2006
Senior Landscape Architect
Jacques Whitford Company, Inc.

1999-2001
Summer Intern
Carol R. Johnson Associates

1995-1999
Assistant Project Manager
Boston Parks and Recreation
Department

EDUCATION

2001
Master of Landscape Architecture
Harvard University
Graduate School of Design

1995
Bachelor of Science, *cum laude*
Landscape Architecture
University of Massachusetts

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Registered Landscape Architect:
Massachusetts No. 1220
New Hampshire No. 00012
Connecticut No. LAR.0001510
New York No. 002211-1
Florida No. 6667031
North Carolina No. 2141
South Carolina No. LSA 1336
Texas No. 3270
Colorado No. LA.0001152

CLARB Certified

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Fellow, American Society of
Landscape Architects
Boston Society of Landscape
Architects, President

Cheri is a registered Landscape Architect with 20 years of experience in multi-disciplinary project management, community engagement, construction administration, and business development. She has special expertise with socially and politically complex site design projects and facilitating public participation. The combination of managing projects from the perspective of the owner, while working for the City of Boston, as well as supporting clients as a consultant, has given Cheri a unique understanding of how best to manage complex projects and work in close coordination with various stakeholders.



Cheri understands that urban landscapes require a creative approach to design integration. From coordinating the goals of owners and stakeholders to choosing appropriate construction materials, these places have complicated contexts that need to be carefully addressed in order for the end result to be successful.

Community outreach as well as owner-interface presentations throughout design process are integral to all of Cheri's projects. While at Boston Parks, she involved the residents and neighborhood children in the design of the playground projects she managed. During her graduate studies at Harvard, she continued her participatory design research. There, she developed a series of design workshops for school-aged children that involved them in the design of their schoolyards and neighborhoods. As a practice leader and vice president at Weston & Sampson, Cheri continues to evolve presentation strategies that engage and inspire stakeholders of all ages.

SPECIFIC PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Moakley Park Master Plan, Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD), Boston, Massachusetts. Responsible for senior technical review, construction feasibility, and client coordination for Weston & Sampson's role (as subconsultant to Stoss) for the advancement of the vision plan for Moakley Park, the largest waterfront park in Boston, which is increasingly vulnerable to flooding due to climate change.

Mayor Thomas M Menino Park, Charlestown, Massachusetts. Project manager for the redevelopment of the contaminated Parcel 5 into this new, highly successful waterfront park—the first universally inclusive park and playground in Boston. Addressed ADA accessibility/compliance issues, developed an extensive public engagement program, helped establish a public-private partnership for park maintenance, and completed the project—from conceptual design to park opening—within an accelerated schedule. The park also includes an accessible harborwalk with informational signage, spectacular views of the city and the water, and resilient designs to accommodate sea level rise.

Pedlocks Island Management & Conceptual Development Plan, Boston Harbor Now. Project principal for the development of a master plan for improvements at this historic Boston Harbor Island. Working together with our multi-disciplinary team, subconsultants, BHN, DCR, and the National Park Service, project efforts

PRESENTATIONS

April 2015

“Redesigning Our Parks to Meet the Changing Needs for All,” presented at New York State Recreation and Park Society Conference

include extensive site research, public engagement, and a sustainable model for redevelopment. The island is open to the public as a natural, recreational park accessed via ferries.

October 2014

“Moving Beyond A/E to Achieve an Integrated Practice” and “Park and Parcel: Boston’s First Universally Inclusive Public Open Space,” presented at Boston Society of Architects

Master Plan for Prescott Park, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Project manager for the creation of a strategic master plan for historic waterfront Prescott Park and nearby Four Tree Island. Performed a thorough site analysis, conducted an extensive public input and participation program, and developed a comprehensive master plan and facilities plan that identified achievable renovation and restoration strategies and solutions for a revitalized, resilient park.

November 2012

“Zube Lecture-Multi-Disciplinary Practices,” presented at UMass Amherst

Revitalization of Draw Seven Park, Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation. Team leader for the revitalization of this signature park along the banks of the Mystic River in Somerville, Massachusetts. Work includes providing urban design/landscape architecture, sustainability/resiliency, utility infrastructure, waterfront engineering, environmental permitting, architecture, facilities planning, wayfinding, public participation, and cultural resource planning services to redesign and redevelop this high-visibility waterfront space into a climate-resilient park.

November 2011

“Remediation and Design in the Urban Landscape,” presented at Build Boston Conference and Harvard School of Design

Renovations to McConnell Park, Boston, Massachusetts. Team leader responsible for working with Boston Parks & Recreation Department to examine existing conditions at the open space resource in the Savin Hill neighborhood of Dorchester. Park renovations include updating the active/passive recreation amenities and incorporating sustainable and resilient designs to mitigate the park’s location in a susceptible inundation zone.

LoPresti Park, East Boston, Massachusetts. Team leader for design, permitting, and construction administration work for this waterfront project, which included realigning pedestrian connections, rotating fields to allow for more efficient site use, and positioning the most-used elements of play for improved park safety and access. Responsibilities included researching and considering sea level rise and site resiliency throughout the design process and exploring iterations of sea wall protection to balance defense against the rising sea and day-to-day access. Ultimately, the design includes granite sea wall blocks installed in a staggered pattern to diffuse wave action during extreme high tide conditions.

Redevelopment of Riverfront Park, Springfield, Massachusetts. Project manager for the development of renovation/restoration strategies as part of a master plan for this riverfront property, including park upgrades and infrastructure improvements. Plans for redevelopment of the park include universal accessibility; site/pedestrian access and connectivity; horticultural and landscaping; an interactive water feature; and improvements to signage, performance spaces, lighting, and utility connections.

Master Plan for Boston Common, Boston, Massachusetts. Project manager for the development of creative, innovative, resilient, and technically sound plans for revitalization of America’s first park. Responsible for coordinating with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends of the Public Garden, multiple subconsultants, and our civil, structural, and infrastructure engineers environmental site professionals, and stormwater experts to deliver a strategic plan for this signature property. Project goals include increasing capacity for existing and future historical tourism, recreation, and programming.