

## Contributors

**Benjamin Ball** grew up in Colorado and Iowa where his mother's involvement in theatre proved influential. While studying for his degree at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Ball logged stints at Gehry Partners and Shirdel Zago Kipnis. Upon graduation, he sought work as a set and production designer for films (including the Matrix series) as well as music videos and commercials with such influential directors as Mark Romanek and Tony Scott. His experience ranges from work on the Disney Concert Hall and small residential commissions for boutique firms to complex medical structures and event design. In his current collaboration with Gaston Nogues, Ball is exploring the intersection of architecture, art and product design through physical modeling and the use of digital and more traditional forms of production. A major goal of his design endeavors is to create experiences; because of this, he feels "a building that is not built is not architecture."

**Dickson Donald Despommier** was born in 1940 in New Orleans, Louisiana but grew up in California before moving to the New York area in 1951, where he now lives and works. Despommier received his Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Notre Dame and conducted NIH-sponsored laboratory-based research for 30 years.

His long-term interests center around the environment and the ecology of infectious disease transmission. He has always been struck

by the number of agents that are transmitted at the agricultural interface by the use of raw, untreated human waste. As a way of interfering with that process, he is currently engaged in a project whose mission is to produce significant amounts of food crops in tall buildings situated in densely populated urban centers (Vertical Farming; see [www.verticalfarm.com](http://www.verticalfarm.com)). In this mode of agriculture, no fertilizers of any type are necessary (hydroponics and aeroponics) including human feces. This concept has many other advantages, as well, and has grown in acceptance over the last 5 years to the point of stimulating numerous planners and developers around the world to get involved (e.g., Amman, Jordan, Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, Singapore, India, China, Korea, Las Vegas, Chicago, New York, Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington) to incorporate them into their vision for the future city. It is very probable that some form of the vertical farm will soon (5-7 years) become part of the skyline of the built environment.

**Steven Ehrlich** joined the Peace Corps for two years after graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was the first architect sent to Marrakech, Morocco in 1969. Four more years of living, teaching, traveling and studying indigenous vernacular architecture in North and West Africa formed Steven's approach to design and continue to influence his work today. This formative period of Steven's education as an "architectural anthropologist" helped Steven un-

derstand connections between architecture and culture, people and place.

Steven has been a guest critic at USC, Harvard, Yale, and UCLA, and lectures extensively in the US and abroad. He serves as the Design Principal for all projects at Ehrlich Architects, based in Culver City, California.

**John Enright, A.I.A.** earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Syracuse University and a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University. He is a co-founder and Principal of the Los Angeles based Griffin Enright Architects. Their work combines innovation and experimentation with a desire to explore cultural complexities relative to the built environment. Griffin Enright Architects has been published extensively locally, nationally and internationally, and has received numerous awards for design excellence, including local and state AIA Awards and most recently, the 2006 American Architecture Award from the Chicago Athenaeum. For twelve years, prior to establishing Griffin Enright Architects, John was one of two Associates at Morphosis, led by Pritzker Prize winner Thom Mayne. His contributions were recognized internationally through numerous awards and publications and includes three first place competition entries: the Science Center School in Los Angeles, the Diamond Ranch High School in Pomona, and the Hypo Alpe Adria Center in Klagenfurt, Austria. John continues to win recognition for his work at Griffin Enright Architects, including the John Jerde Visiting Pro-

fessorship at USC, the 2006 American Architecture Award from the Chicago Athenaeum and the Winner of Vertical Garden Competition Schindler House sponsored by the MAK Center, Vienna. To complement his professional work, John engages in architectural research through his teaching at SCI-Arc (Southern California Institute of Architecture), the University of Houston, and as a visiting, endowed chair at USC. He is also active as a visiting critic and lecturer. John has recently been appointed as an advisory committee member for the national AIA's Educator Practitioners Network (EPN).

**Don Kracht** is a retired math teacher from Junction City, Kansas. He has been constructing Castle Island in his back yard since 1993.

**Katherine Lawrence and Charlie Weiss** Charlie studied economics and environmental architecture in college in the '70s. After graduating, he worked in the energy industry, and alternative energy before side-tracking into the emerging electronics technology industry. Always eager to learn about what works better, what's more efficient, he stayed engaged in environmental building technology on the side until 1993, when he and Katharine built their own house, green for its time. Katharine's history degree has made it possible for her to wear many hats besides green builder: graphic designer, writer, managing editor of several books, and doing administration and marketing for several medical research labora-

tories. Many collective years of travel and living elsewhere helped them appreciate their native Portland, where they're raising their daughter and hoping to do more green building.

**Patrick Lynch** is a partner with his wife Claudia, at Lynch architects, a practice based in London and Dublin. Lynch Architects were recipients of BD's Young Architect of the Year Award 2005-6 and were exhibited in the Irish Pavilion at the Venice Architectural Biennale 2008. Lynch Architects have been working on much bigger projects recently, but their work ranges from individual houses and residential and commercial developments to arts and community projects. They are interested in working at a variety of scales and pay close attention to the social, ecological, historical and economic aspects of places. They believe that good design derives from the search for a poetic economy of means.

Patrick studied at Liverpool, Lyon and Cambridge Universities and Claudia studied in Dresden, Liverpool and London. Patrick has taught at the Architectural Association, London, UCD, DIT and at Kingston University. Their associate architects are Naomi Shaw and Michael Gollings. Lynch Architects are currently teaching a diploma unit at London Metropolitan University.

**Håkon Matre Aasarød**, along with Erlend Blakstad Haffner, is a founding member of Fantastic Norway AS. The studio is engaged with architecture and installations as well as mo-

bilization processes, development strategies and lecturing. Their clients span from local communities to private investors and public institutions. They primarily work in the field of culture, tourism and commercial building. In addition to traditional commissions they initiate projects themselves and organize the financial and political anchoring of them.

They believe places are stitched together by the stories and lives of people living there. Every client is different; every place is in some way peculiar. They aim to embrace this fact and through dialogue transform it into architecture.

Fantastic Norway was proclaimed "Architects of the Year" at the Oscar Hansen Symposium in Bergen, Norway in 2005 and received the "FAD medal of honour" for "best international practice" in Barcelona in 2007. The office is exhibiting at the international pavilion in Venice at the 2008 architectural biennale. Their headquarters is situated in Oslo, Norway.

**Elizabeth Turnbull** is a graduate student at the Yale School of Forestry. In 2008 she organized the construction of her 144-square-foot home in Byfield, Massachusetts. It is now parked in New Haven, where she plans on residing until she completes her studies.

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