Design has an impact on all of us. Like art, architecture can compel debate and conversation. It can evoke emotion. And for people like me, it can inspire our career choices.

Our goal for 2015, was to really dig deeper into some of the projects changing our city’s landscape, and designers who, like Graves, are making an impact around the globe. It’s why we brought in New York architect Deborah Berke and LA architect Thom Mayne. It’s why we invited Juan Miro and Jonathan Hess, to speak about renovations at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It’s why so many of our monthly programs focused on design projects.

It’s not just about listening to other, about taking tours and talking about design. We have to be engaged and involved. So, when Indianapolis considered moving the justice center to the west side of town, we spoke out. Our leadership helped influence the decision to stop the project. We talked to our city leaders during the annual City-County Council reception about the importance of urban planning. We also took a stand against lifting a ban on digital billboards, which could have brought in bright lights throughout downtown, including historic neighborhoods.

It’s been an honor to lead AIA Indianapolis in 2015, and be part of the reorganization of our chapters, which through unanimous vote brings all chapters throughout the state under one AIA Indiana umbrella. My hope is that this change in structure will help all of us focus our efforts toward promoting and advocating for great architecture all over Indiana.

D. Blake Wagner, AIA / President
AIA Indianapolis
A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
The reference to the history of the mounds is a good segue to the past, inviting exploration of displayed artifacts.
The design of the furniture and lighting is simple yet elegant in raw materials like the bent metal desk top of the collaborative work station and welded steel guardrails.

The end design was unique, well-thought out with careful attention to details and constructability.

AIA Indianapolis honored ten projects at its biennial Excellence Awards judged by a panel of architects from Portland, Oregon.

The architecture is built with the landscape, like the tree that will grow through the roof opening, in a simple and modest solution. Well-done AND on budget.

Interiors are bright and inviting, especially the painted orange structure and ducts, and selective walls against the white and natural wood.
1 RATIO ARCHITECTS, received both an Honor Award and the inaugural Excellence Award for its design of The Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science (previous), which judges said has an elegant and unique material palette. They loved the simplicity of form with expressive elements such as the stair and railing art curving around the planetarium. Photo by Susan Fleck Photography

2 ARCDISGN ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS received a Merit Award for the interior architecture of its design studio in downtown Indianapolis. The design maintains the character of the historic building with exposed brick and plaster, while giving it a modern, playful interior, the jury noted. Photo by Betsy Mader Photography

3 DAVID RAUSCH STUDIO received a Merit Award for its design of Landscapes Unlimited in Zionsville. The architecture is built with the landscape, like the tree that will grow through the roof opening, in a simple and modest solution, the judges said. It’s well done and on budget. Photo by Chris Bucher Photography

4 Professors TIM GRAY, AIA, and LUCAS BROWN worked with Ball State University architecture students on GRID Farm: In Support of Urban Farming and Community Education, which received a Merit Award. It’s a unique, well-thought-out design with careful attention to details and constructability, the judges said.

5 ARCDISGN ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS transformed a big-box store into Eskenazi Health West 38th Street. It received a Citation Award for interior architecture. Not only did jurors like that the building was repurposed, but this could be an example of how others could adapt abandoned big-box stores all over the country. Photo by Howard Doughty, Immortal Images

6 AXIS ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS received a Citation Award in interior architecture for Taxman Brewing Co. in Bargersville. Simple treatment of existing materials sandblasted and exposed along with refined new finishes and barn wood table tops achieve a rustic, yet modern aesthetic, judges said. Photo by Susan Fleck Photography

7 CSO ARCHITECTS received a Citation Award for the addition and renovation of Columbus East High School. The new main entrance not only makes a statement for the building, but offers a place for students to congregate, said the jurors, who also liked the bright and inviting interiors, especially the painted orange structure and ducts set against white and natural wood walls. Photo by Douglas Anthony Adams Photography

8 RATIO Architects received a Citation Award in historic preservation/restoration for Hinkle Fieldhouse. The jury liked the modern, flexible spaces within this historic building, which is home to the Butler Bulldogs. Photo by Susan Fleck Photography

9 RATIO ARCHITECTS received a Citation Award in interior architecture for its headquarters in downtown Indianapolis. Jurors said the openness and lighting works well for collaboration and flexibility, also noting the beautiful and inviting new stair that cuts through the interior space and encourages people to take the stairs. Photo by Susan Fleck Photography

10 DAVID RAUSCH STUDIO received a Citation Award in interior architecture for Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. The jury said the use of Forest Stewardship Council eucalyptus wood, day lighting with the original clerestory windows and using recycled and local materials shows a real commitment to sustainability. Photo by MV2 Photography

The simple treatment of existing materials sandblasted and exposed in tandem with the refined new finishes and barn wood table tops achieves the architect and client’s goal of a “rustic, yet modern aesthetic.”
Interiors are bright and inviting, especially the painted orange structure and ducts, and selective walls against the white and natural wood.

The renovated interior from the street is exceptionally alluring and contrasting to the existing building, which is a difficult achievement for an interior project.

Use of FSC eucalyptus wood, day lighting with original clerestory windows, upgrading to LEDs, and using recycled content and local materials shows their commitment to sustainability.
AIA INDIANA AWARDS INDIANA ARCHITECTS WITH SERVICE AWARDS

James T. Kienle, FAIA, who has devoted most of his nearly 50-year-career bringing new life to historic structures, to college campuses and urban environments, received the Gold Medal Award, the highest honor AIA Indiana bestows on an individual. Kienle pioneered the revitalization of historic resources in Indiana through the preservation and adaptive use of residential, commercial and institutional projects.

Jason Larrison, AIA, received the Young Architect Award for his role as State Architect and his previous role as code enforcement administrator with the State of Indiana. Harrison has worked to better engage the design community to improve communications between architects and governing bodies.

Steve Alspaugh, AIA, of Schmidt Associates, received the Juliet Peddle Award, which recognizes individuals for their willingness to pioneer, be successful in breaking new ground and commitment to architecture. Alspaugh is a community leader who often works behind-the-scenes to improve the quality-of-life in Indianapolis. He’s played a prominent role in helping turn the Mass Ave area into the urban jewel it is today.

Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks, received the Walter S. Blackburn Award named after the long-time Indianapolis architect and civic leader. Davis is passionate about preserving Indiana’s architectural treasures and works to bring together advocates from all backgrounds to form partnerships that have helped saved numerous historic structures around the state.

44TH ANNUAL INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL DESIGN COMPETITION

Teens from across the state interested in architect had their chance to explore just what it’s like to create design solutions. For the 44th annual competition, they were challenged to design a fire station for an urban setting on a lot bisected by a highway. Students representing eleven different high schools participated in the annual contest, which provides $500 in cash and a $500 scholarship to attend a summer architecture camp. The goal of the competition is to help students develop an appreciation and understanding of architecture and design and to encourage the next generation of potential architects to consider entering the field.

INDIANAPOLIS CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL RECEPTION

AIA Indianapolis members had a chance to talk one-on-one with their city representatives during the annual City-County Council reception in July at The Hall. The former historic city hall was a fitting location for the event, which included a presentation by Jim Kienle, FAIA, who talked about the importance of urban planning.

ELEVATING DESIGN

We all know design matters, but in 2015, AIA President D. Blake Wagner wanted to put an even greater focus on design. AIA members got first glimpses of some of the newest projects in downtown Indianapolis, including designs for the City-County building plaza and transit center, Indiana’s Bicentennial Plaza, the new YMCA at CityWay and insights about the renovations at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in preparation for the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500.

Design is important. People do care about the designs of our city. Nearly 400 people – architects and residents – attended a lecture by New York architect Deborah Berke (below), who is designing the Cummins headquarters and a 21c Hotel, both in downtown Indianapolis.

Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne visited Ball State University for a special Q&A program, followed by a discussion about drawing in his studio, Morphosis in Los Angeles.
Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with the Indianapolis Transit Center. Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with the Indianapolis Transit Center. Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with the Indianapolis Transit Center. Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with CityWay.
1. ONE 10 STUDIO ARCHITECTS received an Honor Award for 5855 Irvington Lofts in Indianapolis. While its set with a historic preservation district, this affordable, multi-family housing project is anything but historic. Residents share community decks and a vegetated roof plaza.

2. RATIO ARCHITECTS, the design architect, along with SlaterPaul Architects, the architect of record in Denver, received an Honor Award for the Suzanne and Walter Scott, Jr. Bioengineering Building, Fort Collins, Colo. The LEED Gold-certified, the ventilated three-story atrium takes advantage of the Colorado air, plus a rooftop data center helps preheat air before it enters this facility on the Colorado State University campus.

3. BSA LIFESTRUCTURES received an Honor Award for its design of Indiana University Hodge Hall Undergraduate Center in Bloomington. This renovation and addition allows Indiana University to accommodate an increasing student enrollment at its prestigious Kelly School of Business.

4. SCHMIDT ASSOCIATES Indiana University Rotary Building, Indianapolis. The 1931 Rotary building is one of the few remaining historic buildings on campus. The expansion and renovation maintains its history while also adding modernization.

5. AXIS ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS received an Honor Award in Interior Architecture for its design of Jarden Home Brands. Architects created a modern office space to inspire innovative thinking and collaboration inside the new 45,000-square-foot headquarters in Fishers.

6. COSTELLO + ASSOCIATES & BALL STATE STUDENT ASSOCIATES received an Honor Award for its non-traditional project, Research and Development: Strengthening Concrete Masonry Construction in Haiti. Working with Ball State University architecture students, architect and professor Anthony Costello, FAIA, developed a building process using a solar-heated kiln to manufacture concrete blocks, which has the potential to improve the health and safety in Third World countries.

7. BLACKLINE received a Merit Award for its design of The Hinge Apartments in Indianapolis.

8. MOODY NOLAN received a Merit Award for its design of the Purdue University France A. Cordova Recreational Sports Center Expansion and Renovation in West Lafayette.

9. ONE 10 STUDIO ARCHITECTS received a Merit Award for a private residence, named City Farmhouse, in Bloomington.

10. CSO ARCHITECTS received a Merit Award for its renovation and addition at Columbus North High School.

11. SCHOLER CORPORATION received a Citation Award for the design of the Krach Leadership Center & Third Street Suites in West Lafayette.

12. AXIS ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS received a Citation Award in interior architecture for Taxman Brewing Co. in Bargersville.

13. HILBERT CIRCLE THEATRE received the prestigious 25-Year Award. The historic theater – a former vaudeville movie house built in 1916 – faced a wrecking ball in the 1980s, until it was rescued and transformed into the home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Through its rehabilitation and many renovations, architects did not compromise the historic detail of this Neo-Classical Revival-style building on Monument Circle. Project architects include: Archonics Design Partnership (Architect of Record), Van Dijk, Johnson & Partners (Associate Design Architect), Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf (Post Rehabilitation Modifications & Updates) Costello + Associates & Ball State Student Associates.
Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with CityWay. Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with CityWay. Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with CityWay. Please add some descriptive text about AIA's involvement with CityWay.
I’d like to include some piece of text here. Is there a quote from a judge, or an excerpt from Blake’s letter (or something else) that you think would be an appropriate summation of the year?