

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

April 10, 2018

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program,
Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

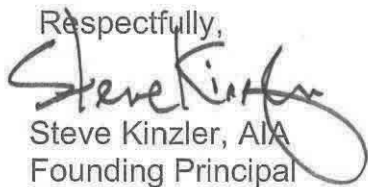
Dear Dean MacKeith:

I am excited to support your efforts and approval process for this long-awaited Master of Design Studies program with the concentration in Integrated Wood Design! This is the perfect program to launch here at the University promoting our "Natural State brand, the timber industries, and other research alliances.

This focus will draw students from around the country and beyond. This will add another "star" to our growing reputation as a "critical design influencer". As our industry continues to learn and test our sustainability opportunities for our national AIA 2030 Challenge, this program will play as a major part for our upcoming generations of designers. A graduate employee with this degree would be an asset to us in expanding the use and application of wood in the design and construction of buildings and continue our [PSW] reputation of delivering exceptional sustainable designs.

Peter, you know my personal trust, respect, and support of you, the School, and the people you all touch. As [your] President of the Dean Circle and co-founding principal of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects [with the largest number of FJSAD alumni in the country], I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation and endorsement.

Respectfully,



Steve Kinzler, AIA
Founding Principal
Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects
2222 Cottondale Lane, Suite 100
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■ April 19, 2018

Peter MacKeith, Dean and Professor
Fay Jones School of Architecture
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 143
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Re: New graduate study concentration in Integrated Wood Design

Dear Dean MacKeith:

The proposal to create a concentration at the Fay Jones School in Integrated Wood Design is both far-sighted and self-evident. In a region blessed with abundant forests and a distinguished history of design with wood, this concentration seems a natural fit. It is far-sighted because it would be the first such program to gather the many strains of research into wood based building systems around the country together in one focused program. It is self-evident because the school, inspired by the work of Fay Jones and others, has already been deeply devoted to the exploration of wood material, assembly, and transformation.

As you know, our firm has been a pioneer in the design of advanced mass timber, with the completed Olver Design Building at UMass Amherst, and the Stadium Drive Student Housing currently under construction at the University of Arkansas. Our learning curve was steep because there were few experts to turn to. A graduate with this degree would be an extraordinary asset to us and other architects in exploring and expanding the uses of wood in future design projects. The program will produce leaders in the emerging field of Integrated Wood Design, with knowledge of great value to designers, timber industry developers, and builders.

This concentration will place the Fay Jones School in the vanguard of research and application of a dynamic new technology based on a sustainable and humane old building material. We would be pleased to support this program through student residencies, visiting workshops, and research collaboration. It is with genuine enthusiasm that we encourage the school to take leadership in the area of wood design, to benefit the design professions, the state's economic development, and the sustainable environment we are creating for the future.

Sincerely,



Andrea P. Leers FAIA
Principal

Chris M. Baribeau, AIA
Principal Architect
modus studio

15 N. Church Ave #102
Fayetteville, AR 72701

479-455-5577
chris@modusstudio.com

2018.04.20

Peter MacKeith

Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Re: **FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design**
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

I am writing to express my full support of a new Master of Design Studies degree program with a concentration in Integrated Wood Design. I am a graduate of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and the principal architect and owner of **modus studio** in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Our firm is rooted in a thinking/making philosophy and our work bridges the realm of both design and fabrication. We have a strong interest in technologies and building systems, both new and old, and strive to be forward thinking in all our work.

My inclination for forward thinking design underscores why I am very excited about the potential for the new MDES program focused on integrated wood design. I am currently engaged in two building projects that are being constructed with advanced timber technologies and am confident of the merits that wood has had, and will continue to have, as a multivalent material that is organically connected to the human psyche with natural, warm, and endearing properties. Furthermore, I see great potential in the very near future for the economy of the state of Arkansas when our forests can be utilized for advanced timber production.

In my direct experience working on the University of Arkansas Stadium Drive Residence Halls, the nation's first university residence hall project to use cross-laminated timber and also one of the state of Arkansas' first advanced timber structures, I can say with certainty that having graduates of this unique program on our team during this highly technical process of structural coordination would have made a significantly positive impact on the project. As the

construction industry begins a renaissance in modern heavy timber construction, graduates of this unique program would bring a body of knowledge vital to the success of our firm and its ability to expand its services moving forward. I would enthusiastically support students from this program through any means possible including guest lectures, student project collaborations, and our internship program at modus studio.

I believe the market potential for innovative wood applications in construction is huge in Arkansas, as there is currently a push for its continued use and acceptance. The performance and economics allow these applications to directly compete with concrete and steel, and as demand grows for efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable building materials, progressive firms such as ours will increasingly turn to industry experts in wood design. An advanced degree in integrated wood design would therefore be a valuable attribute when evaluating future employees.

With all of the above in mind, I have no doubt that a new MDES focus will provide significant impact on students and design professionals and will open new opportunities in the manufacturing and construction industries. In a state that is 60% woodland, it only makes sense that we prepare students as thought leaders, for job placement in an industry with potential for growth and economic impact. Graduates of this program will be the future leaders of the timber industry. Let's make Arkansas the center of this technological rebirth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris M. Baribeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Chris M. Baribeau, AIA
Principal Architect
modus studio

4/19/18

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

On behalf of Miller Boskus Lack Architects and myself, I would like to express our support of the Fay Jones School of Architecture's intent to establish a Masters of Design Studies Degree program in Integrated Wood Design. As you are aware, our firm is involved in the first cross laminated timber (CLT) project ever constructed in the state and the immediate region. The Library Storage Building project embodies the best attributes and advantages of the use of wood and mass timber structural elements. The application of CLT on this project has resulted in a tremendous amount of attention from across the country and has proven to be one of the best construction techniques we have ever utilized. Arkansas has always been a great source for wood products and is now a leader in the use of mass timber. We believe this is the future of construction, and in the very near future we will be experiencing a monumental shift from steel and concrete structural systems to the widespread use of wood and mass timber products for almost every type of building.

This new program will provide graduates with a keen advantage to this 21st century approach to building design. They will be highly sought after from architectural firms in this immediate region and across the country. A graduate with the skills and knowledge to design a mass timber projects will also be more valuable and therefore, will gain higher salaries resulting in positive impacts to our local economies.

I am also currently involved in the effort to bring production of cross laminated timber to our state to better utilize our timber resources in Arkansas while bringing jobs and opportunity to the state. We are confident this will happen in the very near future, further expanding the need for expertise in the design of wood structures. The timing for this program could not be better as we experience the need today for architects who possess this knowledge and we believe this need will only increase in the coming years. Graduates from this program will allow us to grow our practice and increase our firm's ability to increase productivity.

Furthermore, Miller Boskus Lack Architects would offer to support your efforts through internships and offer financial support for guest lectures, project collaboration, and scholarships.

We are very excited about the addition of this master's program and we give our highest recommendation in support of this new program!

Sincerely,



Roger A. Boskus, AIA

75 Kneeland Street, Suite 301
Boston, Massachusetts 02111
T 617.423.5711

Tom S. Chung, AIA LEED BD+C
Principal
tschung@lwa-architects.com

■ April 20, 2018

ARCHITECTS, INC

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith,

I am thrilled at the news of the Masters of Design Studies degree program at FJSAD in Integrated Wood Design, and I wholeheartedly support this tremendously important endeavor. I believe this program at FJSAD, under your vision and leadership will set FJSAD and the State of Arkansas as leaders in pioneering the development of Advanced Timber Technologies that will change the building construction industry, propel Arkansas' timber-based economy, and propel graduates of this program as leaders in the profession of Architecture.

Having witnessed first-hand, your vision and leadership in gathering momentum and the right consortium of people for the Stadium Drive Housing at the University of Arkansas, the ground breaking, first Cross Laminated Timber Student Housing Project in the United States, I know that under your leadership, this program will be a resounding success. There is excitement and momentum currently in the United States about Advanced Timber Technologies, and the design profession, building industry, academia, and policy makers have been coming together to realize this potential for Wood Design to tackle big issues of sustainable design and economic revitalization, especially in rural, non-urban areas of our country. Given this, the time is right for this program to be an important piece of the puzzle.

Arkansas is among the Southern States with an important timber-based economy with vast resources available for 21st century revolution in Timber construction. Such a program will establish Arkansas as leader in continuing research that will adapt these advanced timber technologies, invented in Europe, to US standards, using local Arkansas and Southern US species of wood which will be critical in its proliferation. It will bring together academic research with industry partners that has the tremendous potential to revitalize Arkansas economy by bringing jobs back to traditional timber industry based

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Tom S. Chung, AIA LEED BD+C
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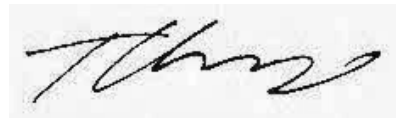
regions as well as providing new, specialized 21st century jobs that can be the envy of neighboring states.

Of course, you are well aware of this and hence you have been among the leaders in promoting Integrated Wood Design. Graduates of this program will have a distinct edge, not only in wood technologies, but in application of advanced digital modeling, cutting edge fabrication technologies, integration with software, computer engineering and robotics. These advanced skills, while integral to Wood Design, will be invaluable assets across many disciplines, and as our educational and professional disciplines continue to merge in the global economy, graduates of this program will be equipped with “out of the box thinking” that will be able to make connections across disciplines in shaping our future environment.

I look forward to the fruits of this exciting program, and enthusiastically support this program through project collaborations, student residencies at our firm, guest lectures focusing our firm’s experience in advanced timber technologies, and other partnerships that would mutually benefit your school and our firm. And as our firm designs more advanced timber structures, we will need graduates with these unique set of skills, and your graduates will be well positioned for these opportunities beyond graduate school.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me, and I look forward to our partnership in shaping our future environment through this exciting, 21st century technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chung', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Tom S. Chung, AIA LEED BD+C
Principal, Leers Weinzapfel Associates
Architecture + Urban Design

GRAY ORGANSCHI
ARCHITECTURE

Alan Organschi
Principal
Gray Organschi Architecture
35 Crown Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510
203.777.7794 (tel)
203.605.6780 (mobile)
alan@grayorganschi.com

20th April 2018

Peter MacKeith

Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

I write in strong support of your Masters of Design Studies concentration in Integrated Wood Design to be launched as part of the Fay Jones School's new MDES degree program in April 2018. As you know, my firm, Gray Organschi Architecture prides itself in what we believe to be our cutting edge knowledge and long record of experience with renewable, wood-based design and construction. We are always in search of employees, as well as collaborating professional consultants with strong backgrounds and skillsets in this area. From research that we have conducted as part of our Timber City Research Initiative, the new Integrated Wood Design post-professional program will be unprecedented in the United States and will allow for advanced study of cutting-edge design practices and innovative material applications of wood in architecture.

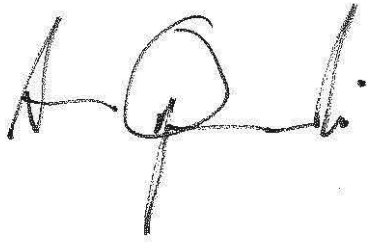
As an advanced degree program, the Integrated Wood Design concentration would offer an opportunity for our own employees to expand their professional skillset with a particular expertise that is increasingly in demand across our profession and the building industry. With their understanding of emerging wood design practices and technologies, graduates of the program will undoubtedly advance their contribution to our firm and allow us to further our efforts to build with mass timber. Needless to say, a skillset associated with specialization in wood design would most definitely justify higher salary compensation as well as access to leadership positions at Gray Organschi Architecture.

At a broader scale, this unique program would significantly contribute to a body of knowledge vital to the growth of companies that are invested in sustainable building and construction. The value of such a program to the timber and construction industry in Arkansas simply cannot be overstated. A large part of my ongoing research, practice and teaching involves the consideration of regional timber supply and its economic potential. In my view, the expertise and leadership of the program's graduates will help advance the use of mass timber technology in Arkansas and surrounding regions. With its development, this has the potential to create new demand for an emerging array of harvested wood products, to expand an existing workforce and industry, creating new jobs that teach new technologies in a sector that has been played an important historic role in the Arkansas economy.

Letter to Dean Peter MacKeith RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design

For these reasons, I offer my unqualified support for a new MDES degree concentration in Integrated Wood Design at the Fay Jones School and look forward to opportunities for future academic and professional collaborations in the realm of sustainable architectural design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Organschi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'O' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Organschi
Principal, Gray Organschi Architecture
Director, Timber City Research Initiative



April 20, 2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

I am excited to hear of the School's initiative to add a graduate study concentration in Integrated Wood Design. As a registered architect, commercial general contractor, and native Arkansan, I see multiple benefits of this program. I have long thought that wood construction is underutilized in this state for commercial construction projects, especially considering the heavily forested nature of Arkansas.

I believe it will be to the benefit of the Arkansas timber industry workforce if we can develop higher end, value added wood structural products which can be used to broaden the possible building types which can be constructed from wood. This is an area of focus that Baldwin & Shell is interested in; and I believe that a graduate of this program would be an asset to our company as we look to increase our market share by advocating for use of wood (hopefully Arkansas grown) in large commercial building projects. Oftentimes use of wood structures for large commercial projects is viewed with some skepticism from developers, code officials, etc. but we see its use in non-typical projects as an emerging reality as evidenced by the use of Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) and Mass Timber in construction of UA's Stadium Drive Residence Halls and the Library Storage Facility.

Graduates with expertise in emerging wood design practices will give us a competitive edge in this emerging market and I can assure you any graduates of this program will be viewed positively if they choose to pursue a position with Baldwin & Shell Construction Co.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Tenney". The signature is stylized and overlaps the printed name below it.

Patrick Tenney, AIA
BArch '83
President NWA Division



18 April 2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

I am writing to express my strong support for a new graduate study concentration in Integrated Wood Design at the Fay School of Architecture and Design. As a practicing architect I am keenly aware of the fast growing need and interest in wood design, as well as the gross lack of education and understanding in this complicated and nuanced field. While disparate pieces of information are available, there are no comprehensive resources for students and practitioners to establish a broad mastery and technical know-how for modern wood architectural design. Wood has been long overshadowed by concrete and steel, but with emerging engineered wood materials like CLT, wood is not only a viable alternative, but in many cases a superior alternative. Given the enormous growth and interest in this field, such a resource as this concentration program would be extremely valuable for the AEC industry. The Fay School of Architecture and Design is uniquely positioned to be this resource and establish national leadership in the field.

Because of engineered timber's sustainability and technical characteristics (fire resistive, strong, dimensionally stable, facility for prefabrication, etc.), every project at Mahlum is studied as a candidate for mass timber. Sadly, the lack of knowledge among designers, consultants, contractors, cost estimators and owners often conspires to take this option off the table before it can be adequately studied. Graduates of the Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design would bring vital information to the design process and help mass timber projects move from concept to reality. Modern timber design relies on integration with technology for scripting, parametric design, fabrication, prefabrication, modularization and all aspects of design. Students learning these skills and having a solid understanding of how to design with wood will have a strong distinction from other graduates. This will increase their opportunities for employment, pay and advancement.

As our world hangs on the precipice of climate disaster, the design and construction industry must find solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and release of dangerous toxic chemicals into our environment. Wood and mass timber provide a solution to these issues, yet only a fraction of non-residential buildings are constructed from wood. I believe that education is the missing piece, and the MDES degree concentration is not just a good idea, but critical to the field of architecture. I hope to see this program instituted and commit my support in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Mayo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Joseph Mayo, AIA LEED AP
Associate

April 24, 2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

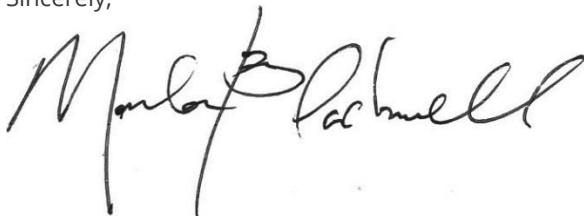
Building closely on the groundbreaking new Masters of Design programs at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, the Integrated Wood Design program is a natural fit for both the school and the region with great potential for national impact.

Arkansas has a long established and successful history in the timber industry, as a primary economic product of the state. By fostering one of the first advanced degree programs of its kind in the country, the University of Arkansas is poised to lead the charge towards a new paradigm of sustainable and healthy building practices. This growth and expansion also allows for partnerships with national and international leaders in timber and construction industries.

New applications and innovative design incorporating the use of wood, a renewable resource, as a primary building material leads to resilient, sustainable structures. Cross-laminated timber (CLT) harvested from sustainably managed forests has a lighter environmental footprint with potential positive impacts on urban environments. CLT has been tested extensively and used widely in Europe with increasing usage as a viable construction alternative in the United States. The University of Arkansas School of Architecture and Design's proposed development of a new research and fabrication facility (at S. Government Ave. and M.L.K. Jr Blvd.), that could be opened as early as 2021, puts the University in an advantageous position for the inception of this Masters program.

This new avenue for research and design will place the University on the cutting edge of an internationally growing field. Drawing students from a broad area and elevating the School's profile through material and tectonic research sets a positive trajectory for the future of graduate education at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Blackwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlon" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Blackwell".

Marlon Blackwell, FAIA
Marlon Blackwell Architects

LEVER

Thomas Robinson AIA, NCARB
Founder
LEVER Architecture

4/12/2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood
Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

I am writing you in support of The Fay Jones School of Architecture's launch of a Master of Design Studies degree program. It is exciting to see the potential for a program like this and how it would positively affect the workforce.

With forestry and timber being such an integral part of the economy, this program would promote cutting-edge design practices and innovative material applications of wood that would positively impact the state workforce. Graduates of this program would be knowledgeable in the use and application of wood in the design and construction of major buildings. In turn, an advanced degree in Integrated Wood Design would result in higher compensation, future job opportunities, and further economic growth. For all these reasons, I am in full support of this program.

Sincerely,



Thomas Robinson AIA NCARB
Founder
LEVER Architecture

LEVER ARCHITECTURE

4713 N Albina Ave, 4th Fl
Portland, OR 97217
503 928 6040
leverarchitecture.com

Walmart Realty
2001 SE 10th Street, Bentonville, AR 72716-5555



April 20, 2018

Peter MacKeith

Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Peter MacKeith:

As we have recently discussed, the potential economic and sustainability benefits that can be realized with the proposed Graduate Studies program with emphasis in Integrated Wood Design at the University of Arkansas are numerous. Given the recent trend toward more thoughtful design, and the advancement in CLT and other wood laminate technologies to come, I remain optimistically confident that the US building norms will catch up with what we have seen in the more developed markets for this material's use and expression across Europe. By most accounts Europe is around 10 years ahead of the curve as compared to the US in this area.

The critical balance of Educational led advancements in Design, Technology, and also safe and sustainable construction methods are all central to Owners first, then Developers, and finally the demand from the end-user community to realize the full potential of the largest resource the State of Arkansas has to offer. We expect this could span many land-use categories from Industrial, to Office, and finally even to Commercial and Retail environments.

Walmart would highly value the myriad of benefits for the University of Arkansas program moving to lead in this emerging industry. The graduates of a program would be seen as potential innovators who may assist Walmart and others in the use of Integrated Wood Design from a design and construction standpoint, but also more broadly in the potential of innovative products designed and produced for sale in our stores and online.

I continue to be encouraged at the potential benefits that Mass Timber, CLT, and other wood products and design concepts that will emerge from the close partnership of Education, Public, Private, and Investment group partnerships. It all starts in the Forest, through the advanced Sawmills that are currently in operation around the state, and further realized by the various methods and avenues to deploy this natural resource to its highest and best outcomes for end users. This effort is aligned with Walmart's purpose to help our customers Save Money, Live Better.

We look forward to continuing the journey of discovery, innovation, and leadership along with you as the effort to promote Arkansas developed resources, for both timber and more importantly the graduates of the University, as the program moves faster towards the future innovation and more commonly adopted standards of practice.

Please feel free to provide me as a reference should anyone have questions about our view on this promising step towards innovation and leadership in the area of Advanced Integrated Wood Design at the University of Arkansas.

Warm regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JP Suarez".

JP Suarez
Executive Vice President, Walmart U.S. Realty



April 20, 2018

Transmitted Electronically

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

Let me offer my support for an advanced degree in Integrated Wood Design.

A graduate with this unique program qualifications brings an extra body of knowledge to the construction industry, gives companies like Nabholz Construction the ability to expand our services, and most importantly enhances the graduates with a new set of skills of expertise and leadership.

A program such as Integrated Wood Design would allow employees to advance in his/her career and certainly expand the use and application of wood in the design and construction of buildings.

Our company heartily supports this program.

Sincerely,

NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

Greg J. Williams, CEO



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

1 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205 | 501.535.1598 | AAD.ARKANSAS.GOV



WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

April 17, 2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

The Arkansas Forestry Commission, an agency within the Arkansas Agriculture Department, is excited to offer our support of a new MDES degree concentration in Integrated Wood Design. The post professional degree will be dedicated to cutting-edge design practices and innovative material applications of wood.

Forests cover 57% of Arkansas or 19 million acres. In 2016, from data collected in the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, we know that Arkansas's forests grew 13 million tons of wood more than what was harvested or that died. Training design professionals to utilize wood in new ways in our buildings not only helps our state's economy with more and new jobs, it also provides incentives to landowners to thin forests. If not thinned, our forests become unhealthy, too dense, and more vulnerable to disease, insects and fire. There is a direct connection from new uses of wood materials to the overall health of Arkansas's forests.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission strongly supports a Master of Design Studies degree that concentrates in Integrated Wood Design for the health of our timber markets and especially for the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

Joe S. Fox
State Forester
Arkansas Forestry Commission





1213 W. 4th St. • Little Rock, AR 72201
501.374.2441 • Fax 501.374.6413
www.arkforests.org

April 13, 2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

It is my pleasure to write this letter to you on behalf of the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) in support of the Master of Design Studies degree program within the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. Organized in 1947, AFA is the only private, nonprofit organization that represents the entire forestry community in Arkansas.

As you have highlighted many times in presentations to a wide range of audiences, Arkansas is a state that is almost 60% covered in forests - 19 million acres. Over 80% of that 19 million acres is privately owned, with almost 70% owned by private non-industrial landowners. As we look toward the future, factors such as expanding the use and application of wood in the design and construction of buildings can be a significant contributor to keeping working forests healthy and sustainable.

One of the challenges has been how to make the connection between this wonderful, sustainable resource and opportunities for cutting-edge design practices and innovative material applications of wood. In addition, we've been challenged to connect the forestry sector with architects and building contractors - those individuals who make the decisions about the materials used in construction projects.

AFA believes the Master of Design Studies program will help bridge the gap. A graduate of this program will bring a unique, fresh body of knowledge to a sector, like forestry, that is maturing, but at the same time, has been identified by Governor Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission as poised for growth.

Thank you for allowing the Arkansas Forestry Association to provide these comments and for the growing partnership we have with you and all those associated with the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design,

Sincerely,

Max Braswell
Executive Vice President



April 26, 2018

Peter MacKeith
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
University of Arkansas
Vol Walker Hall 134
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: FJSAD Graduate Studies Program – Masters of Design in Integrated Wood Design
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dean MacKeith:

I applaud your effort in instituting this important degree and your dedicated attentiveness to making a significant difference in the successes of the State of Arkansas and the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

I am writing to you to express my earnest support in the new MDES degree with a concentration in Integrated Wood Design. This post professional degree will provide expertise and leadership necessary to the timber industry and result in growth of the labor force for both Arkansas and the timber-rich areas of the United States.

The advanced degree in Integrated Wood Design would positively benefit the University, as well as the State of Arkansas, by promoting the use of the State's important wood resources and timber industries. Additionally, a graduate with this education on the application and use of wood would be an asset and a resource to building design increasing the universal understanding of the economic and environmental benefits of using wood as a construction material.

I greatly appreciate your time and energy creating this important advanced degree dedicated to the enrichment of students, the University, and the State of Arkansas. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of any further assistance in the research and promotion of this vital undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bo Ebbrecht'.

Bo Ebbrecht AIA, NCARB
Associate, Project Architect