



President Meegan and members of the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Jury:

JOHN MEEGAN, JR., AIA  
PRESIDENT, AIA OHIO

—  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
ARCHITECTS OHIO  
400 W. WILSON BRIDGE  
ROAD; SUITE 400  
WORTHINGTON, OH  
43085-2259

06.16.24

RE: ERIN REILLY-  
SANDERS, PHD, AIA;  
LETTER OF NOMINATION

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Erin Reilly-Sanders, PhD, AIA for the 2024 AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. Erin and I first met as part of AIA Ohio's lobby day at the Statehouse several years ago. Erin impressed me with her ability to easily connect with legislators and educate them regarding the importance and relevance of the profession's priority issues. Her presence makes our lobbying efforts much more effective and I look forward to working with her on advocacy efforts of increasing scale and importance at the local, state, and national level.

Erin works diligently to influence communities, inspire architects, and advocate for a better world. As an AIA leader, Erin has initiated projects which transform our understanding of sustainability. Many of her efforts demonstrate the potential for design to transform, elevate the public's awareness of pathways to a sustainable future, and build climate action champions. Of note is her work with the Columbus Climate Action Plan working groups, connecting knowledgeable AIA leaders with community activists, government officials, and policy makers.

As a practitioner, Erin's research in visual literacy improves design outcomes for her clients. This sets her apart from other architects. She helps design teams more effectively explore creative solutions, seek new information, and share concepts. On many projects, she actively leads a community engagement process which enriches the design and educates users. As a result, her designs transcend simple form-making and reveal the possibilities associated with a more just and sustainable future.

Erin embodies the spirit of an emerging generation of architects who are leading through service. Erin is a design champion, activist, and an educational resource. She has shaped a career which is influencing peers and shifting society's understanding of the architect's role. For these reasons and many more, I strongly encourage you to recognize Erin Reilly-Sanders, PhD, AIA with the 2024 AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award.

Yours very truly,

TIMOTHY C. HAWK, FAIA; PRESIDENT

—  
WSA; 982 S FRONT STREET; COLUMBUS, OH 43206



June 28, 2024

AIA Ohio  
Attn: AIA Ohio Awards Committee  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Ste 120  
Worthington, OH 43085

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

It is my honor to support the application of Erin Reilly-Sanders, PhD, AIA, for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. Erin's dedication to sustainability, visual literacy, and service within the architectural profession makes her an outstanding candidate.

Erin's commitment to sustainability is evident through her significant work on the Solar Decathlon. As Fabrication Project Manager, she educated a national audience on clean energy techniques and demonstrated how a solar-powered house can conserve resources and optimize energy production. Her role included mentoring students from various disciplines, enhancing their understanding of architecture, and the emotional impact of visual literacy.

In her recent advocacy efforts, Erin has made a substantial impact at local, regional, and state levels. As chair of the AIA Columbus Committee on the Environment (COTE) and a chapter board member, she has organized educational initiatives, met with state legislators, and presented at conferences, promoting sustainability within the architectural community. She most recently organized a series of 2030 Commitment workshops, educating hundreds of architects and designers. Erin's approaching term as president in 2026 promises to push sustainability issues and professional advocacy to the forefront of the chapter.

Erin's work in visual literacy expands the influence of architecture. As one of the few registered architects with a cross-disciplinary doctorate, she explores how picture books can both limit and innovate architectural possibilities. She coauthored a chapter on graphic novels in *Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature*, advancing visual literacy education.

Erin's service to the profession is exemplary. She actively engages the public, making architecture accessible to those historically excluded. Her initiatives include supporting architectural registration, visiting schools with underrepresented demographics, and addressing accessibility issues in architectural critiques.

Erin Reilly-Sanders embodies the qualities of an emerging professional who significantly impacts architecture through service, sustainability, and visual literacy. She is a deserving candidate for this award.

Graciously submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Ewwaraye".

Hannah Ewwaraye, AIA  
AIA Columbus President, 2024

AIA Columbus  
50 W. Town St.  
Ste. 110  
Columbus, OH 43215

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# Erin Reilly-Sanders, PhD, AIA advances architecture through service by elevating sustainability, visual literacy, and the profession.

## BIOGRAPHY

### EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Education  
The Ohio State University, 2014

Drawing Outside the Bounds: Tradition  
and Innovation in Depictions of the  
House in Children's Picturebooks

Master of Architecture  
The Ohio State University, 2010  
Closing in on Comfort

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture  
Miami University, 2001

The Architect's Line: A Poem &  
Picturebook

### REGISTRATION

Ohio #1516495 in October 2015



### POSITIONS

Schooley Caldwell Associates  
Senior Associate 2022- present  
Project Architect 2019-2022

BDT Architects & Designers  
Project Architect 2017-2019

Feinknopf Macioce Schappa Architects  
Project Architect/Shareholder 2015-2017  
Project Manager 2010-2015

Ohio State University  
Graduate Teaching/Research Associate 2007-2014

Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Homework Help Center Coordinator 2001-2007

Wiencek + Zavos Architects (Gaithersburg MD)  
Intern 1998-2001

### SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AIA Young Architect Award 2024

Columbus Metropolitan Library- Barnett & Marion  
Franklin Branches Project Architect 2019-2023

Responsible for All Firm Technical Training  
2022-present

AREtheletes Program 2021-2022

Hocking Hills State Park Lodge Project Architect 2019-  
2023

Marantz Picturebook Research Symposium Advisory  
Board 2016-2018

Collaborative Work Selected for KSA Student Archives  
2009

OSU 2009 Solar Decathlon Team 2007-2009

### AIA LEADERSHIP

AIA Columbus Board of Directors 2021-present  
(Treasurer 2024, Secretary 2023)

AIA Columbus Committee on the Environment  
2017-present (Chair 2018-2020)

AIA Columbus ARE Study Committee Co-Chair 2016

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Reilly-Sanders, Erin. "Understanding the Framework  
for Design Excellence." AIA Columbus, July 2024.

Williamson, Bess, Aimee Moore, Erin Reilly-Sanders,  
and Johnna Keller. "Towards an Accessible Crit:  
Disability and Diversity in Architectural Reviews."  
AIA/Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture  
Intersections Research Conference, October 2022.

Reilly-Sanders, Erin. "Catching Up Columbus."  
DesignColumbus Conference, March 2020.

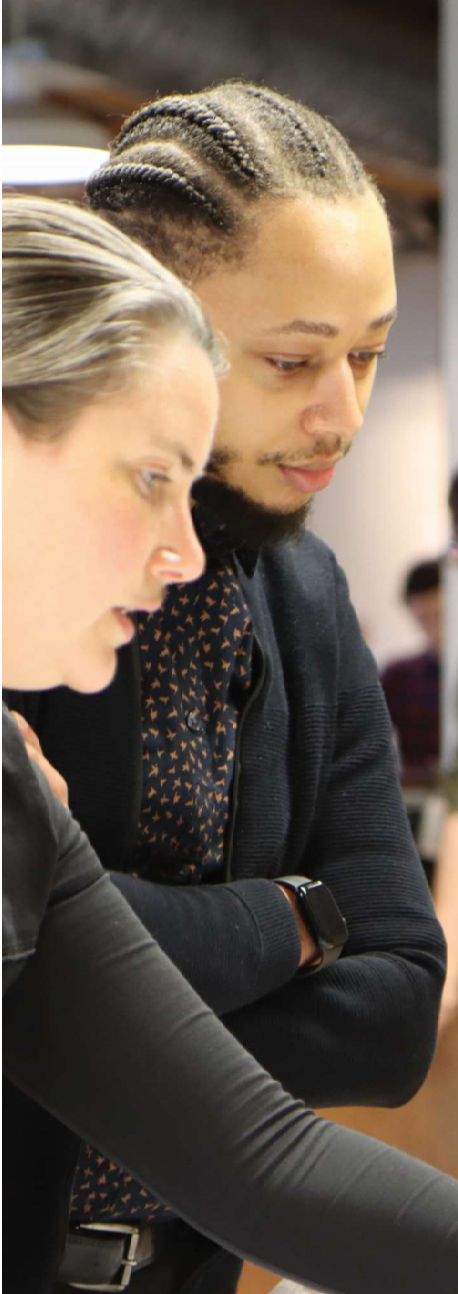
Reilly-Sanders, Erin, Neal Clements, Lucas Dixon,  
Keoni Fleming, and Kara Shell Sather. "Solar  
Decathlon 2009: A Ten Year Retrospective." Central  
Ohio USGBC Lunch and Leaders, May 2019.

Reilly-Sanders, Erin. "Art and Enculturation:  
Connecting the Dots between Depictions of Houses  
in Picturebooks and Children's Drawings." Marantz  
Picturebook Research Symposium, July 2016.

Reilly-Sanders, Erin F. "Knowing the Visual World  
of the Picturebook: Teaching with the Elements  
of Design Scavenger Hunt." National Council of  
Teachers of English Annual Convention, November  
2014.

Reilly-Sanders, Erin F. "Changing the Colors of South  
Africa: Post-Apartheid Illustrations of Elizabeth  
Pulles." In Barbara A. Lehman, et al. (eds.) Creating  
Books for the Young in the New South Africa, 2014.

## SUMMARY



### *Sustainability Service*

Exhibit 1: Solar Decathlon, Exhibit 2: Sustainability Advocacy

Erin serves architecture by sharing the urgency of sustainability. Through one of her most significant endeavors, the **2009 Solar Decathlon**, Erin educated a national audience of industry professionals, public officials, and the public about clean energy techniques for buildings. Erin's work as Fabrication Project Manager communicated ways in which the fully-functioning solar-powered house conserved resources and optimized energy production while thoughtfully executing an architectural concept. During this project, Erin found herself helping undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines to better understand architecture. Their ideas of what architecture, and houses in particular, could look like differed from architecture students in the graduate program. Teaching the emotional impacts of visual literacy drove the project toward success. Her more recent work in **sustainability advocacy** focuses on local, regional, and state educational efforts through service as AIA Columbus Committee on the Environment (COTE) chair, meetings with state legislators, and presentations at conferences.

### *Visual Literacy Service*

Exhibit 3: Dissertation, Exhibit 4: Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature

Erin elevates visual literacy through her service as one of a few registered architects with a cross-disciplinary doctorate. In an increasingly visual world, Erin advocates for greater attention to visual arts and how to understand and appreciate them. Her **dissertation work** investigates how images of houses in picturebooks are often limited in their ability to innovate and explore architectural possibility by the need to communicate. Erin also teaches visual literacy concepts in her coauthored textbook, **Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature**. A prodigy of Dr. Barbara Kiefer, an art educator, Erin wrote an entirely new chapter on graphic novels and the visual techniques they employ to the already substantial discussion of artistic elements.

### *Architecture Service*

Exhibit 5: Promoting Architecture

Erin's service invites the public into the work of architecture, often opening the profession to people who have been excluded in the past. Erin teaches people about **the discipline of architecture**, from staff within her firm to school groups of different ages and even architecture professors, addressing the needs of different ages and backgrounds. Her initiatives include designing and leading a program to support architectural registration, visiting schools with students from under-represented demographics, and collaborating on a presentation and paper on accessibility issues in architectural critiques.

## EXHIBIT 1: Solar Decathlon: Solar House I



Clockwise from top: The Solar Decathlon Village on the National Mall, Washington DC. Filling the water tubes for the trombe wall. Shutters and sunshades help control heat gain while permitting air flow.

### CHALLENGE

Educate the public about sustainable energy production and conservation through designing and building a 600sf solar-powered house, transporting it to the National Mall, and sharing it with visitors for two weeks while subjecting it to 10 contests.

### SYNOPSIS/CONTRIBUTIONS

- ☒ Led the assembly, display, and disassembly of the house in Washington, DC
- ☒ Connected architecture and non-architecture students throughout the project, helping each group understand the perspectives of the other and particularly encouraging innovative explorations in building form
- ☒ Presented at OSU Winter College Symposium in Naples, Florida to share information and solicit donations
- ☒ Led visual communication efforts including creating diagrams for tour guides to use to explain systems, designing the team t-shirt, and programming educational activities into the team webpage

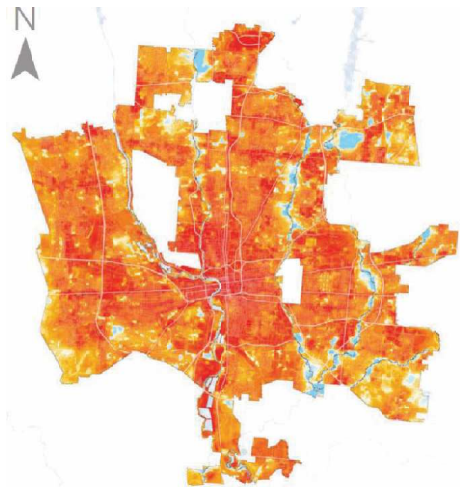
### UTCOME/IMPACT/AWARDS

- Received a **\$100,000 grant** from US Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- Demonstrated to **60 undergraduate students** from 19 majors how to value and advocate for non-traditional architecture
- Shared the house and its sustainable features with **over 100,000 attendees**
- Placed 4th in Comfort Zone, and **5th in Communications** and Market Viability
- **Published in *Nano House: Innovations for Small Dwellings*** by Phyllis Richardson, 2011
- The house now serves **5,000 students per year** as an outdoor STEM classroom in New Albany, OH

## EXHIBIT 2: Sustainability Advocacy



Organized educational programs for COTE Columbus such as what architects need to know about installing solar power by Kevin Eigel and Keith Dimoff.



### CHALLENGE

Educate architects, bureaucrats, and the public about sustainability through advocacy.

### SYNOPSIS/CONTRIBUTIONS/IMPACT

#### AIA Columbus Committee on the Environment (COTE) (2017-present, Chair 2018-2020)

- Hosted a series of sustainable action plan writing seminars presented by Barbra BatShalom for XX attendees
- Built relationships with community initiatives such as USGBC Ohio's DesignColumbus Conference and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Summit on Sustainability
- Planned and tested a Sustainable Practice Survey for all Central Ohio Firms and outreach visits to 34 medium and large firms (interrupted by the pandemic)



Erin and a coworker drove 25 km with white heat mapping (photo left) and air quality measurement devices (photo right) to demonstrate urban heat island effect disparities between neighborhoods. Erin also recruited 5 additional community members to participate.

Worked with AIA Columbus Committee on Design (CoD) to **add sustainability criteria to their design awards**

- Met with CoD as COTE's representative and reviewed drafts
- Increased to 3 of the Framework for Design Excellence principles with plans to increase more
- Will lead session in July on the Framework and how to apply it for awards applications

Presented "**Catching Up Columbus: Where Are We Now and How We Can Close the Gaps**" to DesignColumbus, a conference by the Columbus chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute and USGBC Ohio (March 2020)

- Questioned how sustainability is measured and the benefits and drawbacks of measurement
- Shared measures of sustainability at different scales, from the workplace to the world
- Brainstormed how to catch Columbus up to other cities

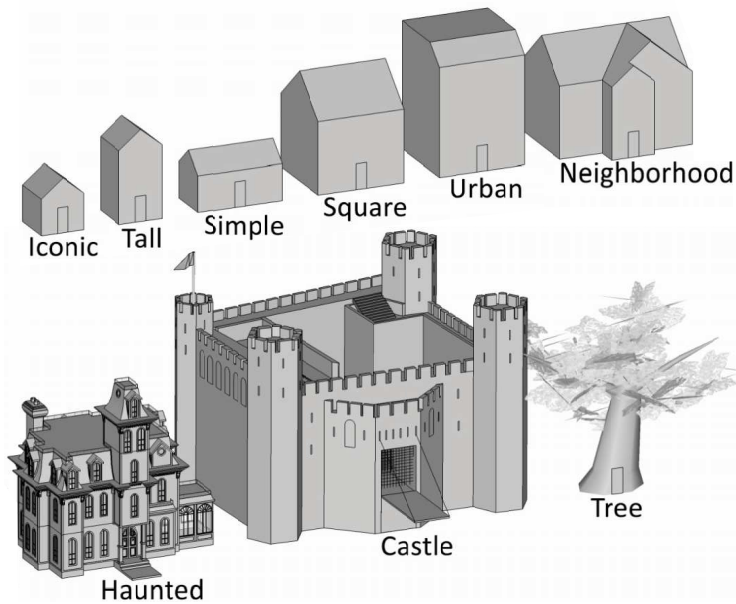
Met with state legislators in **advocacy day** initiatives

- Met with 5 senators, 2 senate aides, 3 representatives, and 2 representative aides
- Procured tax credits to rehabilitate 59 historic buildings in 16 communities
- Ohio updated building and energy codes effective March 2024

Educated fellow church members through **Home Solar System Purchase: Home Owner Experience Based Presentation for Buyers** (March 2022)

- Shared information with 15 participants through 2 seminars
- Inspired at least 1 residential PV purchase

## EXHIBIT 3: Dissertation: Tradition and Innovation in Depictions of the House in Children's Picturebooks (2010-2014)



### CHALLENGE

Educate scholars and teachers about how depictions of architecture in children's picturebooks affect children's ability to imagine different places to live.

### SYNOPSIS/CONTRIBUTIONS

- Investigated the motif of the single family detached house as both a cultural product and cultural driver
- Combined qualitative and quantitative analysis of images to triangulate types of innovation in depictions of houses in children's drawings and professional illustration
- Analyzed 110 picturebooks with pictures of houses
- Asked 39 children to "draw a house" and then "design a house" in an uninhibited manner
- Proposed increasing innovation through exposure to
  - Nontraditional houses
  - Observational drawing
  - Using means of indicating "houseness" beyond criterial aspects

### OUTCOME/IMPACT/AWARDS

- Evidence that **visual art affects children's conceptualization of residential architecture** as demonstrated in their drawings of houses
- Identification of two primary ways children and illustrators create innovative buildings:
  1. Decorating an iconic house with surface pattern/color or ornament
  2. Reimagining an untraditional object such as a mushroom or face as a house
- Acknowledgment that **the need to communicate expediently limits innovation**, and thus innovation is generally superficial or timid
- Recommendations for work with future generations to imagine housing creatively
- **591 downloads** of the complete dissertation

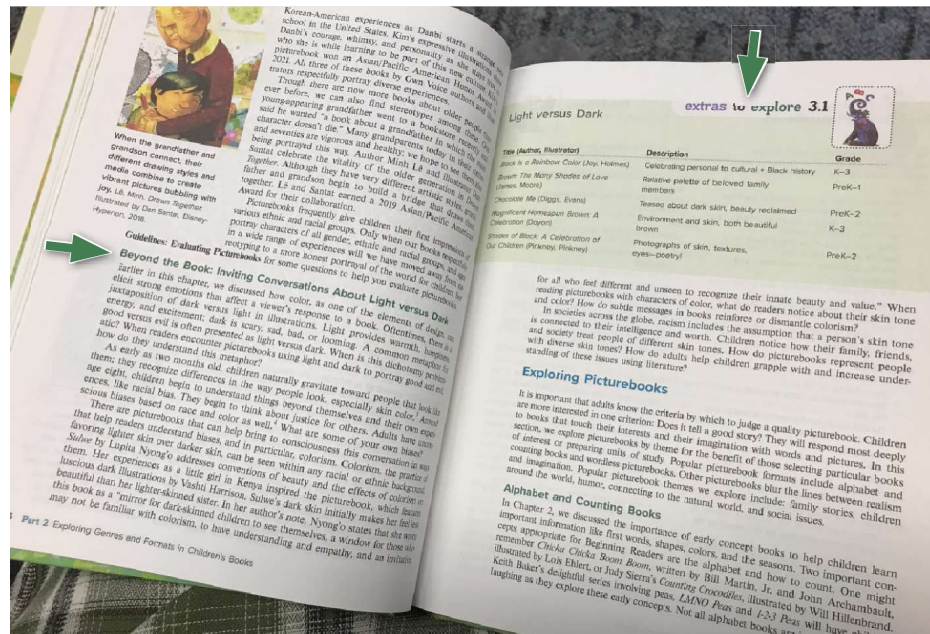


**"[This] research addresses the disconnect between images of house as symbol, house as experiment, and house as dwelling within picturebooks. Drawing on a social constructivist paradigm and semiotic theory, I anticipate that her analysis will add significantly to the discourse and cultural insights about images within picturebooks."**

-Linda Parsons, PhD

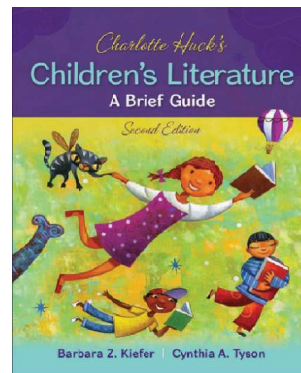
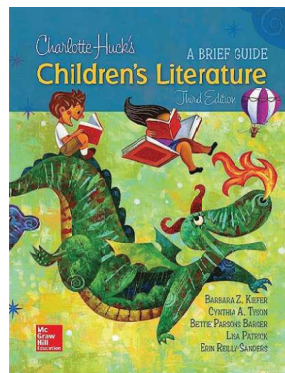
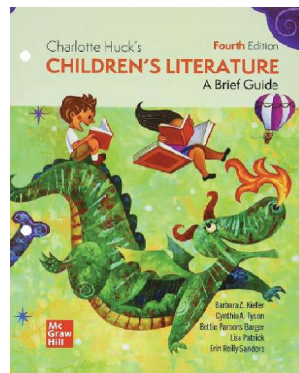
Clockwise from Upper Left: A diagram from the dissertation showing how patterns of house depiction diverge in size and complexity. A colorful children's drawing of a house with interiors. A comparison of a child's innovation of a castle (left) with the more iconic house (right).

## EXHIBIT 4: Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature: A Brief Guide (2013-present)



A two-page spread from the 4th edition:

- “Beyond the Book: Inviting Conversations About Light and Dark” section explores colorism by alternating between offering information and asking questions to prompt readers to progress their understanding.
- “Extras to Explore” boxes offer quick book suggestions on topics discussed.



Different editions featuring artwork by Latin American children's illustrator Rafael López.

## CHALLENGE

Educate college students, librarians, and primary school teachers about visual literacy through a textbook on children's literature.

## SYNOPSIS/CONTRIBUTIONS

Continued the textbook's prestigious tradition as the oldest college textbook for pre-service teachers still in popular use, first published in 1961

- Created an entirely new chapter on Graphic Novels for the 4th edition, focusing on elements of visual communication and evaluation
- Refocused the Literature Programs Across Curriculum chapter as Extending Experiences with Literature, thereby expanding the use of the textbook
- Redrafted the Traditional Literature chapter (3rd Ed.) to respectfully address the stories of non-dominant cultures and religions
- Edited the Contemporary Realistic Fiction and Speculative Fiction chapters
- Co-authored the new “Beyond the Book: Inviting Conversations About...” sections that ask readers to consider sensitive issues such as cultural appropriation, sexual abuse, and controversial actions of authors

Collaborated to:

- Update images in the full-color production, writing most of the discussion of visual elements
- Increase the diversity of experiences and authors featured in each edition, emphasizing authors who share the diverse identities of their main characters
- Integrate “Extras to Explore” suggestions formatted to be more visually accessible with six-word descriptions

## OUTCOME/IMPACT/AWARDS

- Copies in **1,387 libraries**
- **4,600 copies sold per year**
- 56% of surveyed teachers say that the book meets their needs very well
- Explanation of **11 visual elements of graphic novels**



## EXHIBIT 5: Promoting Architecture



Clockwise from top: A program on women in construction for girls from a Big Brothers Big Sisters summer camp. Schooley Caldwell's annual entry for CFAD's Orange Line Exhibit, one of the design opportunities Erin arranges. 4th and 5th graders learn how architects represent built forms on construction drawings.

### CHALLENGE

Educate prospective architects and their teachers about the profession of architecture through school visits, presentations, and mentorship programs.

### SYNOPSIS/CONTRIBUTIONS

Presented a series of three workshops (2019, 2021, 2023) for Ohio University-Lancaster's **Women in Technology and Science Day (WITS)**

- Worked with 140 6th-8th grade girls
- Designed and led activities modeling how architects view and consider the built environment
- Explained career paths and encouraged participants to consider architecture and associated professions

Collaborated on a conference presentation and paper on **accessibility in architectural reviews**

- Wrote and edited several sections of the group paper focused on educational pedagogy and formatted it for publication by ACSA
- Advocated for modifications to physical spaces and practices to make the practice of the critique more productive for participants and accessible regardless of their needs
- Presented to ~30 people in a special session on Equitable Futures

Visited classes at **South-Western Career Academy**

- Invited discussion around energy efficiency and career opportunities through US Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon Pathways
- Connected students with additional programming opportunities

Initiated an **AREthletes program** to guide colleagues toward licensure, taking a collaborative, team-based approach

- Led monthly study sessions
- Checked individual goals and how the firm could best support progress
- Championed providing Amber Book Courses and bonuses for employees
- **3 mentees achieved registration, 1 completed AREs and is still working on AXP, and 3 started test-taking**
- Raised awareness of licensure requirements

**June 20, 2024**Jury Chair  
AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award

Subject: AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Recommendation for Erin Reilly-Sanders, PhD, AIA

Dear Jury Chair,

I am delighted to recommend Erin Reilly-Sanders for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. I've had the pleasure of working with Erin through AIA Columbus on both the Committee on the Environment (COTE) and the Board of Directors. I've also collaborated with her on a presentation and conference paper for the national 2022 AIA/Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Intersections Research Conference, as well as attended one of her talks at the local DesignColumbus 2020 conference. Through these experiences, I've observed her exceptional advocacy and service to advance the profession of architecture through education and visual literacy, by encouraging diverse voices, and by enhancing the broader community through sustainability initiatives.

During her work as Chair of COTE and extending through her current position as Treasurer on the Board of Directors, I have observed Erin to be exceptionally adept at encouraging diverse points of view, especially from those who are typically marginalized. She synthesizes the many and varied ideas generated from Committee or Board discussions to offer actionable and effective strategies for AIA Columbus to implement. She is able to focus our efforts on the big picture and with AIA goals in mind, all rooted in advancing the profession and enhancing the community.

During our collaboration on a presentation and conference paper, titled "Towards an Accessible Crit: Disability and Diversity in Architectural Reviews," for the 2022 AIA/ASCA Intersections Research Conference, I discovered another one of Erin's strengths – her ability to think through ideas critically and to simplify complex concepts making them accessible to a broader audience. Erin offered pedagogical theory to transform the architecture crit into one that is accessible, merging her experiences in architecture, both as student and professional, with her Doctorate in Education.

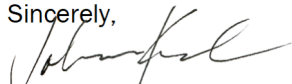
Through these distinct experiences, I've learned that Erin's strengths are rooted in her unique background as both educator and architect. These are foundational elements that allow her passion for transforming the world to shine beyond the immediate reach.

Erin's presentation for the DesignColumbus 2020 conference, titled "Catching Up Columbus," simplified technical concepts in sustainability and data into accessible and actionable strategies for implementation in practice, not just for projects with identifiable sustainability goals, like LEED certification, but for any project. It is through the efforts of architects like Erin that the local building industry can begin to understand the necessity of sustainability beyond a voluntary certification. These are the kind of efforts that move our profession towards achieving the rigorous AIA 2030 Commitment goal of net zero emissions.

In a similar vein, one of Erin's building projects, Hocking Hills State Park Lodge, is a beautiful example of a sustainable building that educates visitors and fosters the human-nature connection, both of which reach beyond the architect-project relationship and beyond the building footprint to engage all visitors in the work of sustainability. This project exemplifies the kind of architect that Erin is and the reach she has to transform our world into one that is resilient and better for all.

I am confident that Erin will continue to build on her unique skill set to better our communities. I recommend Erin for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award with the greatest enthusiasm and no reservations.

Sincerely,

Johnna S. Keller, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, LFA, WELL AP, Fitwel Amb, EcoDistricts AP, ENV SP  
Principal Sustainability & Resilience Engineer

26 June 2024

Letter of support for Erin Reilly-Sanders  
Applicant for AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award, 2024

To the Committee:

I am pleased to write in support of Erin Reilly-Sanders' application for recognition as an Emerging Professional in the Ohio AIA in the category of Service. I have followed Erin's work since she completed her March degree at the Knowlton School at The Ohio State University in 2010. It is rare to see someone define their interests as broadly as she has (sustainability, children's literature, and the profession of architecture) and to be able to weave these together when that is productive, allowing them to remain distinct when appropriate.

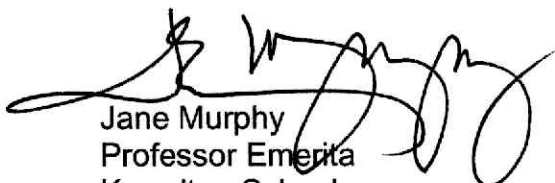
As a student her work on the 2009 Solar Decathlon project was essential, and she has continued to pursue the promotion of sustainability's criticality on all fronts, including governmental, professional, and educational venues.

Completing a PhD in Education in 2014 based on what she refers to as "visual literacy" sets her apart immediately. The continued exploration of the depiction of the single-family house by and for children has allowed her to engage both educators and children in raising their understanding of the implications of how homes are visualized and what those visualizations imply for creativity and scope of knowledge.

Through her professional mentoring activities and interactions with young adolescent and older girls and young women, Erin has promoted the profession of architecture to underserved and underrepresented groups.

As she has done all this service work, she has also performed very well in the day-to-day professional realm as a project architect with a respected standing in the local community. Having known and followed a great many graduate students after 30 years of teaching, I can say that Erin is outstanding in exactly the ways that this award seeks to recognize.

With regards,



Jane Murphy  
Professor Emerita  
Knowlton School  
The Ohio State University



Richard W. Riley College of Education,  
Sport, and Human Sciences  
Department of Education Core

June 27, 2024

**To:** 2024 AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award Jury  
American Institute of Architects Ohio Board of Directors  
**From:** Bettie Parsons Barger, PhD  
**Re:** Reference Letter for Erin Reilly-Sanders

To Whom It May Concern:

It is honor to serve as a reference for Erin Reilly-Sanders' portfolio for the 2024 AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. For the past 14 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Erin in the field of children's literature. Two examples highlighted in this letter include her dissertation focus (Drawing Outside the Bounds: Tradition and Innovation in Depictions of the House in Children's Picturebook) and our collaboration as co-authors of *Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature: A Brief Guide*.

During our first quarter at Ohio State University, I was surprised to learn that Erin worked as an architect while pursuing a Ph.D. in children's literature. What could those two fields possibly have in common? It did not take long for me to view children's literature through her eyes - those who see the world through lines, angles, and structures, through accessibility and equity.

Erin often brought our discussions, both in and out of class, to the importance of how picturebooks depicted buildings, neighborhoods, and characters. She challenged our colleagues to think about Rudine Sims Bishop's (1991) idea children's literature serving as mirrors (children need to see their lives reflected in books) and windows (children need to see the lives of others reflected in books) in terms of settings. She asked questions that encouraged us to look more deeply at pictures. Have you noticed how many houses show picketed fences? Why do you think the illustrator selected to paint single-family houses when the text implies apartment buildings? Questions she asked piqued our curiosity in how children might view, and internalize, settings in children's literature. What happens when children do not see their communities represented in literature? Erin's inquiries made me realize how I often I overlooked these details in picturebooks because they reflected experiences similar to my own. She pushed us all to examine visual literacy in terms of equity.

The more I worked with, and learned from Erin, the more I noticed this interesting intersection of architecture and children's literature. Her passion for the visual elements of picturebooks extended beyond the settings. Erin's understanding of the elements of design (e.g., line, color, shape, perspective) impacted how she interpreted and described the aesthetic appeal of picturebooks. As we worked on the Huck textbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> editions, our team relied heavily on her expertise to ensure we were teaching adults (future teachers and caregivers) how to "read" pictures, so that they could help children learn the same skills. Her contributions emphasize the importance of teaching children about visual literacy.

Throughout my experiences with Erin, she clearly advocates for equity in all she does – in her study of how picturebooks depict communities, how elements of design should be clearly and succinctly described so readers of all ages can appreciate and interpret artistic choices, and how to provide the best representations of diversity in all aspects of the field. I look forward to my continued work with Erin, as she continually pushes me, and so many others, to think outside the box.

Sincerely,

Bettie Parsons Barger, Ph.D.  
Department of Education Core, Chair  
Winthrop University  
143A Withers  
Rock Hill, SC 29733