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Shigeru Ban is an accomplished architect, most famous for his innovative work with paper—particularly recycled cardboard paper tubes used to quickly and efficiently house disaster victims.

Ban studied at the Southern California Institute of Architecture and the Cooper Union School of Architecture where he graduated in 1984. He was the 2005 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Bryan Bell has spent fourteen years “in the trenches” working to make architectural services available to a greater part of the general public.

His first experience was in 1985, working with Sam Mockbee on three houses for rural families in Mississippi. The project received a Progressive Architecture Award in 1986. In 1989, after degrees from Princeton and Yale and a year at Steven Holl’s office, Bell began working with non-profit agencies that specialized in serving the very low-income. In 1991 he founded a non-profit agency, Design Corps, where he works with migrant farm workers and provides design service for low-income families.

Bell has taught in the Auburn University Rural Studio, as well as at the University of Chicago and North Carolina State University. A collection of essays by his students about making architecture more accessible, Good Deeds, Good Design, was published by Princeton Architectural Press. In 2003, work by Design Corps was included in the 2003 Smithsonian/Cooper-Hewitt Design Triennial.

Larry Bowne is an architect and Assistant Professor at Kansas State University. After earning his Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Master in Architecture from Harvard University, Bowne served his internship with offices in Boston And New York.

In 1997, he opened a small practice in New York City, B&R Projects. His work has been published in Dwell and Interiors magazines and has been shown at numerous galleries.

He recently served as faculty advisor to an interdisciplinary team of architects, landscape architects, and interior architects, who designed and built a small-scale project in conjunction with the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition television show. In collaboration with Project Locus founder Patrick Rhodes, Bowne is coordinating a student design/build project in New Orleans, Louisiana, the House of Dance and Feathers.

Jae Cha is an architect in Washington D.C., who has won several awards for her work in under served communities across the world.

After graduating from Kansas State University in 1985, Shannon Criss worked in offices in Boston and attended Harvard’s Graduate School of Design to attain her Masters degree. She shared a small practice in Boston, then taught at Mississippi State University, directing several community-outreach service projects at Mississippi State’s Small Town Center. She now teaches architecture at the University of Kansas. She maintains a practice and research agenda that focuses on integrating architecture with site in sustainable ways.

Michael Hughes is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas and co-principal of Catovic Hughes Design. He received a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Virginia and a M.Arch from Princeton University. Professor Hughes is developing a pedagogical agenda that combines community outreach and material exploration in a series of projects that focus on small, unremarkable, and often forgotten places adjacent to the lives of underserved people. Located in the boundary between architecture and landscape these projects seek to create experiential delight out of small-scale design opportunities. Through the adaptive re-use and recycling of leftover urban space the projects augment and enhance existing building infrastructures with new, primarily outdoor, spaces that provide pragmatic functions, promote play, and exhibit a social and environmental conscience.

Stephen Luoni is the Director of the University of Arkansas Community Design Center (UACDC) where he is the Steven L. Anderson Chair in Architecture and Urban Studies. His design and research has won more than thirty design awards, including a Progressive Architecture Award, an American Institute of Architects Award, and two American Society of Landscape Architecture Awards, all for planning and urban design. His work at UACDC specializes in interdisciplinary public works projects combining landscape, urban, and architectural design. Current work includes design and planning for municipal infrastructure, residential communities, campuses, parks, and big-box retail. His work has been published in Oz, Architectural Record, Landscape Architecture, Progressive Architecture, L’Architecture d’Aujourd’Hui, Progressive Planning, and Public Art Review. He previously taught at the University of Florida and was the 2000 Cass Gilbert Visiting Professor of Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Luoni has a B.S. in Architecture from Ohio State University and a Master of Architecture from Yale University.

Byron Mouton is a New Orleans native who has worked in the field of architecture for over fifteen years. As a clinical design professor at Tulane University’s School of Architecture, he is entering his ninth year as an educator.

In 1998, Byron founded BILD design as an assembly of independent architects, designers, and craftsmen—each with their own portfolio of experience and talent—who come together to collaborate on built form.
A visiting design critic at numerous universities, Byron received a Bachelor of Architecture in 1989 from the Tulane University School of Architecture and a Master of Architecture in 1996 from Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Sergio Palleroni, now an Associate Professor at the University of Texas, Austin, was a professor at the University of Washington for twelve years where he founded the Basic Initiative, a multidisciplinary fieldwork program that challenges students to apply their education in service of the problems facing marginalized communities throughout the world.

He has worked on housing and community development in the developing world since the 1970s with not-for-profit, governmental, and international agencies such as UNESCO, World Bank, and the governments of Nicaragua, Mexico, Colombia, and Costa Rica. In the last two decades he has applied this experience to establishing programs in housing and sustainable development at the University of Oregon, Penn State University, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia, Katholik University, Leuven as well as the University of Washington and the University of Texas Austin where the programs of the BASIC Initiative are now based. His work received the 1997 American Institute of Architects/Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture National Education Award (first ever for service learning), a 2003 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Prize for Creative Integration of Practice and Education in the Academy for straw bale homes built for the American Indian Housing Initiative and in 2005 he received the United States National Design Award, an award given annually to leading designers by the Smithsonian and the White House Millennium Project, as well as the governments of Mexico, Canada, India, and Kenya. To date, the BASIC Initiative has completed more than forty-six projects throughout the world and the United States.

Dan Pitera is a political and social activist masquerading as an architect. He is presently the Director of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture. He recently returned from a year-long sabbatical where he was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University. He was a finalist for the 2006-2007 James Stirling Memorial Lectures on the City. Under his direction, the Design Center has won the Grand Award in the first annual national 2002 NCARB Prize and was included in the international exhibit/conference ArchiLab 2004 and 2001 in Orleans, France. The Design Center has also been the recipient of the 2002 Dedalo Minosse International Prize. In the past year the work of the Design Center was published or exhibited in six countries. In 1998, Pitera was the Hyde Chair of Excellence at the University of Nebraska. He has lectured and taught extensively throughout North America, South America, and Europe.

Patrick Rhodes is a 1996 graduate of the University of Florida architecture program, and received a Master of Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture in 1999. In 2001, he formed Project Locus, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, to design and build community structures in areas of need, and to develop his growing interest in teaching. Since that time, he has worked in communities across the country including Los Angeles, Boston, and Baltimore, and has worked with design professionals, students and academic institutions across the country.

His design/build project in New Orleans, Louisiana, the House of Dance and Feathers has recently been selected for inclusion in the upcoming Venice Biennale.

Mad Housers is an all-volunteer organization based in Atlanta, Georgia working to create alternative housing options for homeless and under-housed populations. Our core belief is that it is difficult to achieve self-sufficiency without the basic foundation of a stable and secure living environment.

Bruce Wrightsman is a Senior Instructor at the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado. He received a B.Arch from Kansas State University and a M.Arch from the University of Texas Austin.
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