

# AAJ COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

## AAJ Emerging Professional Profiles

Subject: Stacey R. Wiseman



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### Personal Information:

- *What are your hobbies?*

For the last several years, I've become very interested in photography. I love the ability to capture fleeting moments through a technical understanding and artistic sensibility. For the most part, I document my children's lives in our home. This hobby has taught me how light moves throughout our home, throughout the year. Plus, I have a thorough record of their lives, which hopefully they will appreciate years from now!

- *What is a recent book you read that inspired you?*

Ever since I've had children, my time devoted to reading has minimized. Currently, I'm lucky if I can finish an essay in *The New Yorker*. Even though my notion of "recent" is several years ago, Joseph O'Neill's *Netherland* was a very inspiring and thoughtful book. It was intelligently written without being too intellectual and the pacing of the story was perfect. Other authors who inspire me are Jhumpa Lahiri and Jonathan Safran Foer. Their writing styles are completely different, yet they both have a sensibility that I gravitate toward.

- *What famous person do you admire most and why?*

This is a difficult question to answer! Lately, I've been admiring the way Anthony Bourdain documents places – urban and rural; near and far. Perhaps my admiration is because I just finished reading a small *Fast Company* profile on him and we're re-watching his *Parts Unknown* on Netflix. A chef, author, host and producer, I respect his ability to capture under-represented locations, countries and cultures. Even with more familiar places like Detroit or Tokyo, he has a fascinating way to tell the story that is not typically told in the media. It starts with food but in the end he captures so much more about their passion, priorities and way of living.

- *What degrees did you earn?*

I have a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Architecture - Architectural History and Theory from McGill University.

- *When did you first know that you wanted to be an architect?*

In seventh grade, my parents built our home. Even though they didn't call it design build, it's essentially the process they took. I saw my mom working on the plans when I was heading to bed at night and my dad negotiating with the contractor. Seeing this process inspired me to develop plans and not-quite accurate axonometric drawings every free moment I had. This passion never subsided and deciding on a major in college was one of the easiest decisions I've ever made.

## **Experience:**

- *What firm do you work for and how long have you been with your current firm?*

I've worked for CGL Ricci Greene for six and half years.

- *What is your role within your firm?*

I'm an Associate who participates in our diverse projects at various positions.

- *What projects have you worked on?*

I have worked on the Muscogee County Needs Assessment Study, Rikers' Island New Facility and most recently on the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections State Master Plan.

- *What project have you found to be the most rewarding and why?*

The most rewarding jobs are where I work directly with the corrections staff to determine how their facility operates and how they would like it to operate. I love analyzing their complex needs and operational procedures into a comprehensive plan that makes sense both from an functional and design perspective.

- *What has surprised you most about working in the justice architecture field?*

I've been surprised at how much of the architecture is derived from data analysis and operations. This grounds the design and in the end improves the architecture.

## **Why Justice?**

- *What prompted you to begin working within the field of Justice Architecture?*

Throughout my career, I've always been drawn to the social impact architecture can make, particularly for those who do not have the means to fund the change architecture can provide. Prior to working for CGL Ricci Greene, I worked on renovating a large high school in the Bronx. Over several years working on this project, I got to know not only the administration but also the faculty and students at the school. This personal connection made the changes we were implementing mean so much more than the plan itself.

- *What motivates you to continue working in this specialty market?*

I'm motivated by the fact that the work I do on a daily basis has the ability to impact society at large. I may not create change overnight but slowly and steadily I'm making a difference.

- *Who is your mentor? Describe your mentorship process and how you have become engaged in learning about Justice Architecture.*

April Pottorff has mentored my experience in the justice market. Leading by example, I've seen how she interacts with clients and interprets operational procedures into an efficient plan. One of the most valuable lessons, I've taken from my experience working with her, is how to distill complex information into a message that can be easily conveyed and understood by the client and user. I've learned that clear communication is just as important as the idea in the design process.

### **The future of the justice market:**

- *How do you see the role of the justice architect evolving over the next several years?*

I'm fascinated to see how jurisdictions are handling alternatives to incarceration and how that impacts the architecture we create. I've also been involved in several projects designing housing units and adjacent program spaces for the severely mentally ill inmates. Over the next few years, I anticipate more facilities will be looking to find creative solutions and best practices for how to properly serve this population.

- *Please describe what you believe is your role in the field.*

While it's important for me to always remain sharp with the technical aspects of architecture, I excel at sifting through data and research to discover it's relevance for a specific project. I'm not one to shy away from a mountain of prepared projections or complex operational procedures.

- *What do you hope to contribute the justice market?*

I would love to continue researching best practices and policies as it relates to the justice market - particularly for correction facilities. Finding the important connection between theory and design has always been a foundation for my interest in architecture. Whether my contributions exist in built work, papers or presenting, I hope to communicate my experience in a way that broadens the challenges we face within and beyond the justice architectural community.

- *As it relates to the justice market, what do you hope to accomplish in the next 10 years?*

Over the next ten years, I hope to continue to work with individuals at the facility level to realize the planning and research initiatives as built form.