



The American Institute of Architects

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March is gone and April is upon us. Despite the late snows, the weather is getting warmer, the days are getting longer, and spring will be here any day now. There is something wonderful about spring – refreshing, rebirth, the time for cleaning and renewal. It's a chance to look at things with fresh eyes, even if we've been looking at them all along.

When you meet people at a party and they ask what you do, they usually have an idea of what 'being an architect' means. They're usually completely wrong – I got rid of my drafting table decades ago, for example – but at least it gives them some frame of reference. In reality, I'm a project manager who deals more with contracts, meetings, and spreadsheets than drafting. What I actually do day to day is a long way from what I thought I'd be doing in school, I know, and yet I still love it.

But sometimes I yearn to go back to those studio days, solving spatial problems, looking through design magazines eager for the next idea, or hearing from cutting edge architects visiting my school. Lucky for me, it is easy to go back to those days, because I still live in a college town with an architecture school. I can look up their schedule of speakers and find one that matches my interests, or volunteer to be on the jury reviewing student projects. I can mentor students and be inspired by their work. I realize not everyone has that access, but in the days of the Internet, you don't need to live in a college town. The AIA is chock full of visionary ideas as part of the AIAU at <https://aiau.aia.org>. There are over 150 online courses listed. Pick something new, a topic you've never considered before!

Still want more inspiration? Check out the Look Up Film Challenge entries at <https://aiafilmchallenge.org/> You are bound to find something you've never seen before.

National Architecture Week is April 7-13 this year. Celebrate by listening, learning, or seeing something new – anything that ignites your passion for architecture design. Be a student again!

Onward and upward,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Nyht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Kristen" on the top line and "Nyht" on the bottom line.

Kristen Nyht, AIA, AICP, LEED AP