

TRADITIONS, INNOVATIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS OF EMERGENT TECHNOLOGIES IN 21ST CENTURY

Long Island residential architecture expresses duality between tradition and spirit of modernity. It spans between the admiration for its own history and natural environments with the nostalgia and ambition to continue traditions rooted in the past but also celebrates the spirit of adventure combined with technological advancement as true expression of modernity. The lecture will present historical perspective and step by step timeline of the historical developments on Long Island, and how they influence the built environment and residential architecture. Both the “spirit of the time” and technological inventions will be quickly reviewed. The constant contradiction between tradition and modernity driven by the industrial age and its technologies will be emphasized. The continuous transformation for last 150 years will be summarized and contrast of the approaches presented. Finally, the new building methods of 21 century, driven by the digital revolution as answer to climate crisis will be overviewed and emerging new construction systems as mass timber and CLT prefabricated technics and finally “off site” manufacturing construction technologies and fabrications technics driven by digital revolution including latest phase of the “AI agents” will be presented. The material experimentation will be briefly summarized and presented and a vision for the future of building in the residential sector of the construction industry will be rendered. The conclusion will urge evolvement and improvements and merging traditional techniques with emerging contemporary methods, which answer our time economic needs, common acceptance and, what is most important, will not contribute to the destabilization of our natural environment. More holistic design and integrated methods of construction must take over to answer the new principal force of climate crisis and cultural changes bearing on construction.



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Wojciech Oktawiec is an award-winning architect, writer, and educator. He lives and practices architecture and design in Ridgewood, Queens, NY. He has been President of Path Architecture PC since 2004 and has been in practice since 1983.

Oktawiec received Master of Architecture degree from Technical University (Polytechnic)

of Krakow Poland (1977-1982). He has been a Register Architect in the State of New York since 1995.

After graduation he worked as Instructor of Architecture at the Department of Architecture of the Technical University of Krakow 1983-1988, where he was involved in teaching and research work regarding design of the various types of housing and methods of revitalization of the old town districts and downtowns of the cities.

During the years 1989-2004 he worked in the numerous architectural firms on Long Island and New York City including JRS Architects, N2 Design and Architecture and SHoP Architects.

Wojciech is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor at New York Institute of Technology and has been teaching technology courses at undergraduate and graduate level since 2019. His main interest is residential design and ecological site design including off-site construction.

Wojciech Oktawiec organized international conferences on the “future of building” and wrote number of the architectural articles including about Covid-19 and New York City. He was one of the founding members of the Polish Green Building Counsel.

He received numerous awards for his designs and took part in international architecture exhibitions.