My father Ted Kessler would be honored that this walking tour has been put together in his memory. He was passionate about architecture, sharing it with people, and walking. In the late 1990's I began leading an 8th grade field trip for a small school in Washington State’s San Juan Islands, to the “other Washington”, and New York City. Getting Ted involved seemed a natural fit for our school and one he embraced as soon as I asked him about it. The first tour he put together began at the World Trade Center and wove its way around lower Manhattan and Wall Street, ending up near Battery Park. It was an immediate hit, and became an annual event and highlight of the 8th grade trip. Each year he spent months researching and putting together a different itinerary for the walks. We would talk during his research period, and sometimes he was bursting with excitement about some obscure fact or history he had dug up.

On his walks, Ted brought architecture to life by giving his guests wider, more informed eyes to see the structure, design, and aesthetics of the buildings that make Manhattan such an incredible city. Ted always found interesting stories about the architects who were so instrumental in creating the city-scape we see today, and this helped in further understanding how a building evolves in design.

Ted loved architecture. Walking, driving, or travelling with him, was an ongoing discussion and critique of the region’s architecture. Ted was very proud of being part of the NJ AIA, and I would like to thank you for bringing your interest in architecture, and for the opportunity to remember Ted’s enthusiasm and interest in the profession.

Eric Kessler
We are in the 4th quarter, last issue of Leagueline and I look at what has happened and what will happen.

This past July our golf event took place, it was hot but members and vendors came out and supported the event. Everyone had a good time and the event helped the ALNNJ. Later in the month there was a gallery show at The Stable in Ridgewood of members’ work. Members presented architectural projects, photos, and art work. If you didn’t come out to see the show you missed seeing the talent and wonderful work. I was very impressed by a Japanese Tea House designed and built by one of our members.

It was very inspiring to see members come out to show their work and if more members would come out and participate we would all be richer for it.

Coming up this month will be Design Day in Asbury Park, and the High Line Tour-High Line History/Design in NYC. In October, the League is joining together with Newark & Suburban to co-host the 2012 Design Awards Competition. The Arthur Davis Lecture Series will take place in November with Phillip Kennedy Grant. I am happy to tell you Daniel Libeskind will be speaking to the ALNNJ in March of 2013. This lecture was made possible by a member extending himself to make this event happen. I often wonder if more members would participate in the League, what more can we achieve. Next year’s events are being worked on and if anyone has an idea for a speaker please come forth and let your voice be heard.

Each meeting that we have I look out into the audience and always see the old timers, as I like to call them. They are all past presidents or board members and have given their time to the ALNNJ. As they get up in the years I want to thank all of them and in particular Mr. Joe Cocco for picking up two to three members and driving them to the meetings. When you go to the next meeting look for them, say hi, they have a wealth of information and a tall tale to tell.

I would also like to thank the current board members and the committees who volunteer their time to make the events that we all attend possible. Their efforts should be acknowledged; without these people who volunteer their time year after year, this League would not exist. This is why it is so important to come forth and help. Take the first step and it will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next event and please come up and say hi.

Steven B. Lazarus, AIA
ALNNJ President 2012

Over the last 7 years, the Leagueline 4Q has been a pictorial issue with inspiration, projects and photographs – the collective work of the ALNNJ membership. This year’s issue illustrates the special collective work of one incredibly hard-working member. Joe David has researched, edited and then guided the spring and fall versions of the Ted Kessler Tours for the last 5 years. I have been fortunate enough to have been able to accompany Joe and other members on most of his enjoyably informative “walks” and learned more about the history of NYC, its neighborhoods and their buildings of interest, than in any other format.

I and the ALNNJ as well, owe great thanks to Joe David for his labor and intellect in creating and guiding these Ted Kessler Tours over the past years and his very generous sharing of these with the entire ALNNJ membership in this special 4Q issue.

Fay W. Logan, AIA
4Q Editor

Leagueline

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Leagueline
The first tour was organized to hit the big five star highlights of Midtown. It started with an abbreviated tour of Grand Central Terminal and then headed past (or sometimes through) the Waldorf Astoria, St Bartholomew’s, Raimund Abraham’s Austrian Cultural Forum, MoMA, the Sony/AT&T Building, Central Park South and Columbus Circle. Stops included the ground floor arcade of the Helmsley Building (where a 4 inch layer of cork insulates the rumble of trains below), the cast white copper facade of the now closed American Folk Art Museum Building and the Olin Partnership’s reclaimed park at Columbus Circle, where fountains drown out most of the traffic noise and a reclad Two Columbus Circle literally says “HI.”

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**Hearst Tower** (e)
The Hearst Tower is closed to the public, although that doesn’t mean they won’t let you in the door. At ground level (before security) there is a public bench that allows you to gawk at James Carpenter’s icefall fountain and gives you a rare inside glimpse up to Norman Foster’s tower.

**Lever House and the Seagram Building** (b)
One of the great corners in the city and one of the great corners of Modernism, where Gordon Bunshaft’s incredibly innovative Lever House is in an eternal stare down with the decorative i-beams of Mies van der Rohe’s Seagram Building.

**Paley Park** (c)
This small pocket park by Zion & Breen is technically the city’s busiest per square foot. Understandably so - it’s a quiet, hidden refuge only half a block off Fifth Avenue.

**Citicorp Center** (a)
Hugh Stubbins’ iconic skyscraper from 1978, complete with double-decker elevators, an angled roof that never got its solar panels, an almost impossibly heroic street level plaza and (of course) a fatal design error that almost caused the building to fall down.

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**57th St and 7th Ave** (d)
It’s not just Carnegie Hall that makes this corner special but also the other buildings that surround it - Warren and Wetmore’s Bruylife (1922), Cass Gilbert’s Rodin Studios (1917) and James E. Ware’s wonderful Osborn Building (1885).
Teardrop Park (a)
Battery Park City already has a lot of parks, but Teardrop Park is special. Hidden a block in from the river, it features an Adirondack-inspired ridge and actual heliostats designed to bring extra sunlight into a park surrounded by towers.

Miller Highway Medallion (b)
A surviving artifact of the elevated highway that was closed for good reason in 1973 after a truck fell through a hole in the roadway, it is representative of a time in the area when the waterfront was cutoff from the neighborhood and the neighborhood was facing widespread destruction.

Standard Hotel (c)
The new icon of the Meatpacking District is this towering upside down hotel, complete with a trippy lobby and hard to miss form that straddles the High Line.

Gansevoort Plaza (e)
The last stop of the tour is the reclaimed small public park at 9th Avenue and West 14th Street, an area that ten years ago was a no man’s land and today is one of the great places in the city.

The second tour cuts through my favorite area of the city and the area that I probably know the best. It started at the Winter Garden of the World Financial Center with an overview of the proposed construction at the World Trade Center site (which wasn’t all that much to see back then) before heading north through Battery Park City, Greenwich Street, Hudson River Park and the Meatpacking District. Over the previous ten years, this area had seen tremendous changes unlike any other in Manhattan. The tour took place just before the opening of the first phase of the High Line, a transformative event that continues to redefine the area all the way up to the (eventual) Hudson Yards project.
This tour started with the idea of connecting a few specific buildings together: the Flatiron Building, the new Morphosis Cooper Union Building and separate residential buildings by Jean Nouvel and Herzog & de Meuron. I spent some time walking and researching the blocks and areas in between those buildings and found or rediscovered areas and buildings that were equally as fascinating. Things like a giant well traveled statue of the head of Washington Irving, a building that utilized used steel rails for its (then) innovative structure, a statue in a private park of John Wilkes Booth’s brother, the incomplete 29 story base of a never finished 100 story tower and the actual meaning of the constantly changing numbers of the Metronome on the south side of Union Square.
**Fourth ALNNJ**
**Ted Kessler Walking Tour**
**Fall 2010–Spring 2011**

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**“Times Square” by Max Neuhaus (a)**
If you stand in the exactly right place (on top of the subway grate just south of West 46th Street between Broadway and 7th Avenue) you can hear a continuous sound installation by Max Neuhaus; a piece of invisible artwork at one of the most crowded places in Manhattan.

**Bryant Park and the Bank of America Tower (b)**
The Bank of America Tower by Cook + Fox was designed to be seen from one particular view, the back of the library at Bryant Park. From there a tower that might seem otherwise clunky finally starts to make sense.

**West 44th Street (c)**
West 44th Street is one of those places in midtown where a lot of great buildings seem to congregate. The star of the street is Warren & Wetmore’s New York Yacht Club; but on the same block is the Society of Mechanical Tradesmen, the Harvard Club and the Algonquin Hotel.

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**Holly Whyte Way (d)**
A midblock walk through atriums and lobbies that starts on West 51st Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues) and ends up on West 57th Street right in front of Christian de Portzamparc’s 1000 foot high tower currently under construction.

**Illumination Lawn (e)**
The most fun part of the Diller, Scofidio + Renfro interventions at Lincoln Center is the Illumination Lawn, a sloping wedge of grass that feels like it came out of nowhere and landed in the middle of all the travertine at Lincoln Center.

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A companion to the first Kessler Tour, this route started in and looped around Times Square, Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center, Columbus Circle and Lincoln Center. The tour started on the eighth floor lobby of John Portman’s Marriott Marquis Hotel and even went underground through the concourse at Rockefeller Center. Along the way there were stops at the Diamond District, the tkts Booth, Renzo Piano’s New York Times Building, the front porch stairs at the New Victory Theatre, Scribners Bookstore and St Patrick’s Cathedral. The tour finished at Lincoln Center where recent renovations to the public plazas by Diller, Scofidio + Renfro had just opened.
The challenge of organizing a Lower Manhattan tour is that there is so much to see in such a small area. I started by walking as many of the streets that I could, looking for the best views and researching the most interesting areas. Places like Bowling Green where the original fence from the 1700s still stands and you can still see where anti-royalists hastily sawed off the fencepost crowns back in 1776. Places like the Federal Reserve Bank, where 25% of the world’s gold is held in an underground vault at bedrock 80 feet below street level. And the Beach Pneumatic Transit System where riders were propelled by giant fans on underground trains for a one block ride. And Paradise Square, the very center of Five Points, which was once home to cholera epidemics, gangs, crime and prostitution but today instead is filled with lawyers.

Robert Wagner Park Pavilion
On the site where Jennifer Bartlett’s South Gardens was never built, the Machado & Silvetti designed pavilion perfectly frames the view of the harbor and perfectly aligns with the Statue of Liberty itself.

Beekman Place
Even if you don’t have $40,000 a month to rent a penthouse at Frank Gehry’s tower you can still stand underneath its shiny, shiny ripples for free. The best view of the building is on Spruce Street, just northeast of the private driveway.

East River Esplanade
The first section of SHoP’s East River Esplanade opened in 2011 right before the Fall Tour. The park will eventually connect Peter Minuit Plaza with East River Park near the Williamsburg Bridge.

Peter Minuit Plaza
A great public space that features WXY Architecture’s zipper benches, the corian cladded New Amsterdam Plein and Pavilion by UN Studio and a great 3d map of New Amsterdam, complete with a tiny bronze windmill.

William and Beaver Streets
Another great corner, this one is dominated by 20 Exchange Place by Cross and Cross, one of the great towers of Lower Manhattan.

selected highlights...
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ALNNJ Golf Outing
July 16, 2012

On July 16, 2012 The Architect’s League held its Thirteenth Annual Golf Outing at the Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg, NJ. We had a large number of both architects and vendors turn out for the event — 85 golfers in total. The event was able to raise over $6,000 dollars of money for League Scholarships. The golf committee would like to thank all those members and vendors who attended and supported the event. Especially to Donna Mikitan from Pella who worked the check-in desk and the 50/50. Hope to see all of you next year.

A special thanks to the following vendors:
- Dinner Sponsor: LAN Associates EPAS, Inc.
- Lunch Sponsor: Pella Windows and Doors
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- Hole-in-one: WB Wood
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- Kallen & Lemelson Consulting Engineers, LLP
- SNS Architects & Engineers, PC
- ZIP System

ATNNJ Group Exhibit
The Stable, Ridgewood, NJ
July 9 - 27, 2012

This year’s ALNNJ Members Exhibit at the Ridgewood Stable was a success. The Opening Reception included a special presentation of “The Fountainhead” and it was a lot of fun for those who attended. To all members who participated, thank you. We had a good cross section of projects and exhibits. Special thanks to Kurt Vierheilig and Michael McEvoy for all their help in putting this show together and the ILA Design team for sponsoring our refreshments.

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New Members

The League is pleased to announce our New Members:

- Ketali K. Brate, Assoc. AIA
- Mr. Daniel Campera, AIA
- Nicholas A. Cervinello, Assoc. AIA
- Kathleen D. Crimi, Assoc. AIA
- Jeffrey M. Curty, AIA
- Venta Djuce, Assoc. AIA
- Mr. Christopher D. Doughterty, Assoc. AIA
- Matthew A. Fink, Assoc. AIA
- Steven C. Folkes, Assoc. AIA
- Michael T. Hinnenkamp, AIA
- Yasser A. Moustafa, Assoc. AIA
- Mr. Nobuaki Nakajima, Int’l Assoc., AIA
- Mr. Andrew M. Giamano, AIA
- James Y. Paason, Assoc. AIA
- Pierre Shukla, Assoc. AIA
- Alfonso Tinone, Assoc. AIA
- Youngjin Who, AIA

The League welcomes you and looks forward to your involvement and participation. Please make a point of introducing yourself at the next dinner meeting or event.

ALNNJ Scholarships

The ALNNJ Scholarship Committee has chosen this year’s recipients:

- Gina Abbate (Pennsylvania) - The Architects League of Northern New Jersey Scholarship
- Lara Saleh (NUIT) - Albright-Knox Art Gallery Scholarship
- Michael Middleton (NUIT) - Clarence Tabor Memorial Award Scholarship

Congratulations

AIA Members interested in participating in a new Women in Architecture committee in New Jersey (WIA-NJ).

Contact Joyce Raspa: joyceraspagore@yahoo.com