

James Garrison
AIA, RA, NCARB

Firm

Garrison Architects
Principal

Education

Syracuse University, NY
Bachelor of Architecture, 1976

Professional Qualifications

Registered Architect
NCARB Certified
American Institute of
Architects

Academic Affiliations

Pratt Institute
Master of Architecture Program
Adjunct Associate Professor,
2008 - present

Parsons School of Design
Master of Architecture Program
Adjunct Assistant Professor,
1992-2008

Syracuse University, School of
Architecture
Visiting Critic, 1994-1999

Columbia University, Graduate
School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation
Direct of Architectural
Technology, 1989-1991
Adjunct Assistant Professor,
1984-1992

James Garrison is an architect and educator whose work expands the boundaries of architecture by demonstrating how it can address the ecological and cultural dynamics of our era. Garrison believes that teaching is an obligation and vehicle for professional growth and has taught and practiced continuously throughout his career.

Born in 1953 in western Pennsylvania, Garrison grew up surrounded by natural beauty yet also witnessed the destructive effects of clear cutting and surface mining. In 1971 he attended the Syracuse University School of Architecture, graduating with the Matthew Del Gaudio Award for design excellence. He apprenticed with modernists Skoler and Lee and was mentored by Werner Seligmann.

In 1978 Garrison joined Polshek and Partners where he handled the conception, design, and technical development of many projects, his projects receiving four Progressive Architecture Design Awards and two Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects.

In 1991, he founded Garrison Architects to practice in a diverse and personalized studio setting. The firm engages in wide practice including urban and resiliency planning, housing and public buildings and new forms of industrialized buildings and products. Garrison Architects pursues a rigorous program of cultural and technical research in the search for exceptional architectural solutions.

Mr. Garrison provides general leadership of the firm, including a generation of design concepts, direction of design development, communication with clients, and the technical overview of building systems.

Professional Experience

Garrison Architects
Principal, 2001-Present

Garrison Siegel Architects
Partner, 1993-2001

James Garrison Architects
Principal, 1991-1993

Polshak and Partners
Partner, 1977-1991

Skoler Lee Architects
Intern Architect, 1974-1975

Subjects Taught

Graduate Core Design Studios

Modular Design Studios

Sustainability Research
Seminars

Industrialized Building
Research Seminars

History of Building Technology

Construction Technology

Selected Awards

Building Brooklyn Award
Landscape and Open Space
NYC Beach Restoration Modules

NYC Public Design Commission
Award
NYC Beach Restoration Modules

NYC Public Design Commission
Award
Staten Island Animal Shelter

NYC Public Design Commission
Award
East Elmhurst Branch Library

Building Brooklyn Award
Restoration Plaza

AIA New York State Design
Merit Award

Slocum Hall / Syracuse University School
of Architecture

Chicago Athenaeum Architecture Award
Principal Officer's Residence, Samoa

Chicago Athenaeum Architecture Award
Iverson Kaplan Residence

USGSA Design Excellence Award
US Border Patrol Station

AIA New York State Honor Award
Bard College Residence Halls

AIA NYC Project Award
AIA NYC Design Award
AIA Boston Sustainable Design Award for
Outstanding Urban Intervention
Recycled Ground - An Urban Playground

AIA National Honor Award
Inventors Hall of Fame

AIA National Honor Award
500 Park Avenue

Selected Past Projects

Restoration Plaza
Brooklyn, NY

NYC Emergency Housing Prototype
Brooklyn, NY

NYC Parks Beach Restoration Modules
New York, NY

Koby Cottage
Albion, MI

Staten Island Animal Care Shelter
Staten Island, NY

Lehman Child Care Center
Bronx, NY

Volunteers of America Playground
Bronx, NY

Syracuse University
School of Architecture
Syracuse, NY

Steppingstone Day School
Bronx, NY

Selected Past Projects Cont.

National Museum of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Temecula Border Patrol Station
Murrieta, CA

U.S. Consular Residence
Apia, Samoa

Emergency Housing Unit Is Unveiled
The New York Times
2014

NYC Unveils New Stackable Housing
The Daily Mail
2014

This Is Where People Will
Fast Company Exist
2014

Recent Speaking Events

Modular Housing Panel
Green Building Council
2015

Pre-Fab(ulous): The Evolution
of Modular Housing
Multifamily Executive
Conference
2015

NYC Emergency Housing
AIA National Convention
2015

The Mod Moment Panel
AIANY
2014

Modular Construction Summit
Pratt Institute
2013

Cold War Cool Digital
Pratt Institute
2013

Prefab Housing
National Apartment Conference
2012

Prefab Housing Lecture
AIA New York
2012

A Modular Design Setback in Brooklyn
The Wall Street Journal
2014

Testing The Emergency Housing Prototype
Metropolis Magazine
2014

A Hurricane Proof Shoreline for NYC
Green Building & Design Magazine
2013

Post-Sandy Rebuilding
Huffington Post
2013

Sandy-Bashed Rockaway Cheers Changes
Bloomberg
2013

Hurricane Sandy Recovery
Metropolis Magazine
2013

More Resilient in the Rockaways
Wall Street Journal
2013

American Prefab
Dwell Magazine
2012

Residential Eco Houses
Prosperous Printing Co.
2012

Selected Articles

Designing Solutions
Prattfolio
2014

Silicon Tally Radio Show
National Public Radio (NPR)
2015

Investments in Public Architecture
Architectural Record
2011

Builders Take New Look At Prefab
The New York Times
2011

Interview with James Garrison
CNN, 2010

James Garrison's architecture looks to create a synthesis of art, sustainability, and engineering. It is rooted in intellectual curiosity and problem-solving and embraces the most current technology of this era. He is intensely concerned with issues of social equity and sustainable architecture in a constantly changing world.

Jim's architectural interests are extremely diverse with regard to program, scale, material and form. His sensibilities are informed by modernism and he maintains the conviction that the architect must understand and control the building process from design through construction. Valuing craftsmanship as well as digital precision Garrison looks to embrace the human connection to making, whether building of masonry or assembling prefabricated components.

Born in 1953 in western Pennsylvania, Garrison witnessed nature destroyed by surface mining and clear cutting. This led to a lifelong dedication to ecological protection and ever greater understanding of sustainability. In 1971 he attended the Syracuse University School of Architecture and there researched new forms of urban housing under the mentorship of Werner Seligman, graduating with design honors. While at Syracuse he apprenticed with modernists Lewis Skoler and Kermit Lee who conveyed a refined ethos for architecture and society.

In 1978 Garrison joined Polshek and Partners and soon after began to teach and conduct research in building design and technology in Columbia Universities Architecture school. He has combined practice, teaching, and research throughout his career and is now an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the Pratt Institute.

After the rapid growth of Polshek and Partners in the 1980's Garrison established a nimble, studio-based practice that has, for the past two and a half decades, relentlessly searched for

new techniques to make the highest levels of design and quality available to programs from housing to public buildings.

Jim's first building to gain national recognition was 500 Park Avenue, designed while he was with Polshek and Partners. It drew on his academic work as it sought to demonstrate the potential for modern architecture to re-integrate the fabric of the city. Located at 59th Street and Park Avenue in Manhattan it synthesized the glass architecture of the postwar era with the masonry of the surrounding pre-war apartment houses. It was heralded by Ada Louise Huxtable as an exemplar of contextual design and received an honor award from the American Institute of architecture.

Jim was given a significant challenge when asked to design a new home for his alma mater - the Syracuse University School of Architecture. With 34 faculty critics, a very limited budget, and a damaged but promising early 20th century building there was much to accomplish. The design process unfolded with an analysis that uncovered the buildings original passive ventilation features and has led to new strategies for sustainable design. The finished building serves to unite the culture of the school of architecture and make its accomplishments visible to the surrounding university. It has won a NYC AIA design award.

The Pod hotel, now completed in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, is the among the most challenging of Garrison Architects buildings. It combines 250 modular micro hotel rooms, completely prefabricated in Poland, with an irregular urban site and a complex program of courts and terraces. It is an exemplar of sustainable construction and the potential for humane and elegantly designed prefabricated architecture.

Jim views teaching and practice as inseparable and mutually reinforcing. His teaching career began at Columbia University in 1984 where he taught core studios and directed the architectural technology curriculum until 1992. He has taught at the Pratt institute since 2008 concentrating on core graduate studios and specialized seminar investigations into industrialized building systems and sustainability.