

stephen alexander lesser
ARCHITECT

FIRM ADDRESS

Stephen A. Lesser Architect
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EDUCATION

Professional Degree
Master of Architecture
Graduate School of Design
Harvard University (1972)

Undergraduate Degree
Bachelor of Arts
Columbia College
Columbia University (1966)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATIONS

Certified
National Council of Architectural
Registration Boards (1975)

Registered Architect
Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1975)
State of New York (1981)
State of New Jersey (1993)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
CHRONOLOGY

1994 - present: stephen alexander lesser
Architect
1986 - 1994: Nagel + Lesser Architects
1980 - 1985: Rivkin / Weisman P.C.
Architects
1979 - 1980: Rubin and Smith-Miller
Architects
1976 - 1979: Richard Meier and
Associates Architects
1973 - 1975: Benjamin Thompson and
Associates, Inc.
1972 - 1973: Perry, Dean and Stewart
(now Perry Dean Rogers
and Partners)
1972: Wallace, Floyd, Ellenzweig,
and Moore, Inc.
1971: The Architects
Collaborative, Inc.
1970: Gruzen and Partners
1968 - 1970: Tufts-New England Medical
Center Planning Office
1964 - 1967: Columbia University
Planning Office

NARRATIVE HISTORY

Stephen Alexander Lesser was born in 1944 in Bethesda, Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1966, majoring in the Social Sciences, and after a period of graduate study, turned to the field of Architecture, receiving his Master of Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in 1972.

Important in the formation of Lesser's architectural perspective during his years at the Graduate School of Design were three interdependent influences: first, in an architectural educational institution peopled with teaching disciples of Le Corbusier such as Jose Luis Sert and Jerzy Soltan, the intellectual and aesthetic discovery of the work of Le Corbusier as represented in his *Oeuvre Complete*; second, the influence of fellow students schooled in the modern language of architectural design, particularly those students who had come to the School of Design having been strongly formed by the philosophies then current in the programs of architectural education at Columbia and Princeton; and third, through the efforts of that student body the introduction to the Faculty in 1970 of one of the premier group of architects teaching at the time at Princeton, Charles Gwathmey.

First registered to practice architecture in 1975, Lesser apprenticed at several architectural offices in the Boston area, including The Architects Collaborative and Perry Dean and Partners, before settling at Benjamin Thompson and Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where from 1973 to 1975 he worked on the celebrated Faneuil Hall Marketplace project. In 1977 Lesser moved to New York City, having joined the office of Richard Meier, Gwathmey's colleague and a well-established proponent of Corbusian Modernism, and between the years 1976 and 1979 worked at Richard Meier and Associates on a series of both residential and institutional projects, including the Bronx Developmental Center, the Palm Beach and New York City residences of Alfred Taubman, and the Hartford Seminary Foundation.

In 1980, after a year working with Henry Smith-Miller and Michael Rubin on several residential and commercial interiors, Lesser left to join Rivkin/Weisman P.C. Architects, where after two years he became a principal and director. During his tenure there between the years 1980 and 1986 Lesser participated in the design and execution of numerous award-winning commercial and residential projects, including an Architectural Record "Record House", several Architectural Record "Record Interiors" and Progressive Architecture publications and an Architectural Review International Interior Design Award, and the cumulative work of that period was placed on exhibit at the Columbia University School of Architecture and Planning in the Fall of 1984.

In 1986 Lesser formed a new partnership in East Hampton, New York, Nagel + Lesser Architects. Between 1986 and 1994, Nagel + Lesser Architects energetically pursued several competitions, designed and completed a broad range of residential, commercial and institutional work, won awards for residences (1993 ARCHI Award for the Shyer House), commercial projects (1986 Beauxarch IV for the Viking Lines), and institutional designs (1994 ARCHI Award for Camp Blue Bay), and achieved the distinction of becoming the first firm to be given the newly-instituted Young Firm Award by the Long Island Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1993.

Since forming his current individual practice in 1994, Lesser has pursued new work with equal determination that the standards of excellence learned in his education, apprenticeships and previous practice be upheld in his own, and that where possible his own work shall have both satisfied clientele and lasting didactic influence.

As a fundamental corollary to this effort, Lesser has renewed his association with architectural education. Having served over the years as a guest critic or juror at the architecture schools of several leading universities, including Yale, Harvard, Pennsylvania and Columbia, where from 1982 to 1984 Lesser was a Lecturer in the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, and from 1994 to 2004 Lesser taught in the School of Architecture and Design of the New York Institute of Technology.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sole practitioner

stephen alexander lesser Architect
 east hampton, new york
 1994 - present
 Projects for Private Residences, including:
 Millman House, Center Moriches
 Millman Apartment, NYC
 Cohen House, East Hampton
 Turner House, Wainscot
 Footer House, Southampton
 Millman House, East Hampton
 Mollod House, East Hampton
 Mikumo-Hansell Apartment, NYC
 Oxnam Apartment, Palm Beach
 Loughhead House, East Hampton
 Oxnam Townhouse, East Hampton
 Lurker-Long House and Studio, East Hampton
 Kaplan House, East Hampton
 Levine House, Amagansett
 Oxnam Apartment, NYC
 Silberkleit House, East Hampton
 Rego, Feil and Marks Houses, Montauk

Partner

Nagel + Lesser Architects
 East Hampton, New York
 1986 - 1994
 Projects:
 Camp Blue Bay (Girl Scouts of Nassau County), East Hampton
 Cook Agency, East Hampton
 Bridgehampton School, Bridgehampton
 Henry Shyer House, East Hampton
 Brooks House, Sagaponack
 Riverside Child Care Center, Southampton
 Steven Kaplan House, East Hampton
 William Doyle Residence, East Hampton
 Choolfaian House, East Hampton
 Schweitzer House, East Hampton
 15 Toilsome Lane Office Building, East Hampton
 Dune Road House, Southampton
 Radler Apartment II, New York City
 James Oxnam Townhouse, East Hampton
 Viking Lines, Montauk
 Cartter Evans Residence, Greenwich

Principal and Director

Rivkin / Weisman P.C. Architects
 New York, New York
 1980 - 1985
 Projects:
 Societe Generale de Banque Offices, NY
 Credit du Nord Offices, New York
 Bayerische Vereinsbank Offices, New York
 Banque Worms Offices, New York
 Hermann Residence, Seaview, Fire Is., NY
 Dubai Bank Offices, New York
In association with:
 Jan Kouzmanoff
 Philippe Dordai

Project Architect / Designer

Rubin and Smith-Miller Architects
 New York, New York
 1979 - 1980
 Projects:
 Philip Hess Apartment, New York
 ARJS Offices, New York
 Podiatry Clinic, New York
In association with:
 Philippe Dordai
 Dirk Kramer

Project Architect and Designer

Richard Meier and Associates Architects
 New York, New York
 1976 - 1979
 Projects:
 Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford
 Taubman House, Palm Beach
 Grey Apartment, New York
 Taubman Apartment, New York
 Pottery Shed, New Harmony
 The Theatrum at the Atheneum, New Harmony, Indiana
 Bronx Developmental Center (Field Inspection)
 Colorado Springs Convention Center
In association with:
 Gerald Gurland
 Henry Smith-Miller
 Sherman Kung
 Christopher Chimera
 Paul Aferiat
 Michael Paladino

Designer

Benjamin Thompson and Associates, Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1973 - 1975

Projects:

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston
St. Anthony Square, Minneapolis
Centennial Studio Building, Rhode Island
School of Design, Providence

In association with:

Bruno D'Agostino
Marcus Rector
William L. McQueen

Designer

Perry, Dean and Stewart (now Perry Dean
Rogers and Partners)
Boston, Massachusetts
1972 - 1973

Projects:

Berkshire Mental Health Mental
Retardation Center, Pittsfield,
Massachusetts
Surgical and Special Services, Massachu-
setts General Hospital, Boston

In association with:

Charles Rogers III
Frank McGuire
Warren Schwartz
Elizabeth Ericson

Draftsman

Wallace, Floyd, Ellenzweig, and Moore, Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1972

Projects:

British Petroleum Base Camp, North Slope,
Alaska
Third Harbor Crossing Study, Boston
Transportation Planning Review
M.I.T. Fraternity House, Cambridge

Architectural Programmer

The Architects Collaborative, Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1971

Projects:

Teaching Hospital, University of California at
Irvine

In association with:

Russell Vandiver

Junior Designer

Gruzen and Partners
New York, New York
Summer, 1970

Projects:

Housing Systems Study for the
New York State Urban Development
Corporation

*Research Assistant / Architectural**Programmer / Designer*

Tufts-New England Medical Center Planning
Office

Boston, Massachusetts

1968 - 1970

Projects:

Medical Education Building, Tufts University
School of Medicine
West Broadway Community Multi-Service
Center, South Boston
Mental Health Coupling Project
(Community Mental Health Centers
- General Hospitals coupling study
for the N.I.M.H.)

In association with:

Hermann Field, Director
William R. Hammer
Charles Norris
Douglas S. Ogilvie

Draftsman / Office Assistant

Columbia University Office of Architectural
Planning

Columbia University, New York

1964 - 1967

Projects:

Ornithology Lab
Brander Matthews Theatre Collection
North Campus Expansion / Terrace Building
Core Laboratory

In association with:

Robert W. Braunschweiger, Director

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair

Codes Committee
AIA/Peconic Chapter
2003-present

Roundtable Participant

Lighting Symposium
Architectural Record
1985

Member

Architectural Advisory Committee to the
Jury
I.A.L.D. Lighting Awards
1984

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Design Studio Critic

Adjunct Associate Professor
 New York Institute of Technology
 School of Architecture and Design
 Islip, New York Campus
 1994-2004

Lecturer in Architecture
 Columbia University
 Graduate School of Architecture and
 Planning
 New York, New York
 1981-1984

Instructor in Architecture
 Boston Architectural Center
 Boston, Massachusetts
 1975

Guest Juror / Review Critic

New York Institute of Technology
 School of Architecture and Design

Islip, New York Campus
 Mid-Term and Final Design Studio Reviews
 Fall and Spring, 1985-1990

Westbury, New York Campus
 Mid-Year and Final Thesis Reviews
 Fall and Spring, 1994-1997, 2004-2008

Roger Williams University
 School of Architecture
 Spring, 1997; Fall, 2004; Fall, 2005

Columbia University
 Graduate School of Architecture and
 Planning
 Spring, 1987; 1985; 1982

Yale University
 School of Art & Architecture
 Fall, 1977; Spring, 1977

University of Pennsylvania
 Graduate School of Fine Arts
 Spring, 1979; Fall and
 Spring, 1978; Spring, 1977

Harvard University
 Graduate School of Design
 1974 and 1975

Boston Architectural Center
 1973 and 1974

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chair

Codes Committee
AIA/ East End Section
East Hampton, New York
prior to 2003

Member

Building Committee
Artists Alliance of East Hampton
Amagansett, New York
1997 - 1999

Member

Artists Alliance of East Hampton
Amagansett, New York
1997 - 2004

Member

P.T.A. Playground Committee
John M. Marshall School
East Hampton, New York
1995 - 1996

Member

Design Control Committee
Dune Alpin Farm Property Owners
Association
East Hampton, New York
1994 - 1996

Member

John M. Marshall School /
Expansion Project Review Committee
East Hampton Union Free School District
East Hampton, New York
1993 - 1994

Member and Chairman

Landscape Committee
Dune Alpin Farm Property Owners
Association
East Hampton, New York
1993 - 1996

Architectural Advisor

P.T.A. Planning Committee
John M. Marshall School
East Hampton, New York
1992 - 1993

Alternate Member

Board of Appeals
Town of Williamsburg
Williamsburg, Massachusetts
1976 - 1978

Member

Committee on Land Use
Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1974 - 1975

Charter Member

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1973 - 1975

AWARDS, EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS

As a Partner at Nagel + Lesser Architects, Lesser received a 1986 Beauxarch IV Exhibition Award for the design of a commercial project, Viking Lines, a mixed-use ferry and day-fishing boat terminal in Montauk, New York. His work was also selected for the curated exhibit at Beauxarch in 1989, and his competition entry was included in the touring exhibit sponsored by Beauxarch in 1990 of the East Hampton Airport Terminal Design Competition.

In 1993, Lesser's work at Nagel + Lesser received two ARCHI Awards from the Long Island Chapter of the American Institute of Architects: a Residential Award for the Shyer House in East Hampton, New York, and the Young Firm Award, the first time the Chapter has given this Award. The following year he was co-recipient of the 1994 Institutional ARCHI Award from the Long Island Chapter in recognition of the excellence of his work on Camp Blue Bay, the East Hampton camp of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County.

Lesser's work as a Director of Rivkin/Weisman P.C. was not only frequently published by the architectural journals (*Progressive Architecture*, *Architectural Record* and *Record Houses, Architectural Review*), but also appeared in the *New York Times* and in other books on architecture, including *Yale Perspecta* and *Private and Executive Offices*.

Camp Blue Bay and the Shyer House were published in the *New York Times* in 1994. The Schweitzer House was published in *Newsday Fanfare* in 1994. The Shyer House, itself published in *Newsday Fanfare* in 1991, was also recently included in Ken Miller's beautiful collection of photographs published by Rizzoli International in 1993, *The Hamptons - Long Island's East End*.

Note:

All awards, exhibitions, competitions and publications below are listed for the significant participation of Lesser in the specific project, at the practice or partnership to which work is attributed by the suffix noted below, unless resulting from the sole practice of Stephen A. Lesser.

/N+L - Lesser as Partner at Nagel + Lesser Architects

/RW - Lesser as Principal and Director at Rivkin/Weisman P.C. Architects

AWARDS

Architectural Review
INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR
DESIGN AWARD
Credit du Nord Offices
New York, New York
1982/RW

Architectural Review
INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR
DESIGN AWARD
Credit du Nord Offices
New York, New York
1982/RW

Architectural Record
RECORD INTERIOR
Credit du Nord Offices
New York, New York
1983/RW

Architectural Record
RECORD HOUSE
Hermann Residence
Seaview, New York
1983/RW

Progressive Architecture
P.A. INTERIOR
Bayerische Vereinsbank
Offices
New York, New York
1984/RW

Architectural Record
RECORD INTERIOR
Generale Bank Offices
New York, New York
1985/RW

Beauxarch IV
AWARD FOR UNBUILT
COMMERCIAL PROJECT
Viking Lines
Montauk, New York
1986/N+L

A.I.A. / Long Island
ARCHI AWARD -
RESIDENTIAL
Shyer House
East Hampton, New York
1993/N+L

A.I.A. / Long Island
ARCHI AWARD -
YOUNG FIRM
1993/N+L

A.I.A. / Long Island
ARCHI AWARD -
INSTITUTIONAL
Camp Blue Bay
East Hampton, New York
1994/N+L

EXHIBITIONS / COMPETITIONS

THREE NEW YORK FIRMS

Grad. School of Architecture & Planning
Columbia University
New York, New York
Fall, 1984/RW

BEAUXARCH III

The Hampton Day School
Bridgehampton, New York
Summer, 1985/N+L

BEAUXARCH IV

The Hampton Day School
Bridgehampton, New York
Summer, 1986/N+L

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

For the Boston Common
Public Facilities Department
Boston, Massachusetts
Fall, 1988/N+L

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

For Suffolk County
SCVV Memorial Commission
Bald Hill Cultural Center
Farmingville, New York
Fall, 1988-Spring, 1989/N+L

EAST HAMPTON AIRPORT COMPETITION

For The Town of East Hampton
East Hampton, New York
Spring, 1989/N+L

BEAUXARCH '89

The Hampton Day School
Bridgehampton, New York
Summer, 1989/N+L

EAST HAMPTON AIRPORT EXHIBITIONS

National Institute for Architectural
Education
New York, New York/N+L
April-May 1990
Guild Hall, East Hampton, New York
May-June 1990/N+L

EES EXHIBITION

A.I.A. Long Island Chapter
East Hampton, New York
Summer, 1993/N+L

FACULTY WORK EXHIBITIONS

New York Institute of Technology

Westbury Campus: Winter, 1994
Islip Campus: Spring, 1995

PUBLICATIONS

BANQUE WORMS OFFICES / New York
 Viladas, Pilar. "Subtle shifts," Progressive
 Architecture, February 1983, pp.116-119.
 /RW

BAYERISCHE VEREINSBANK OFFICES / NY
 Boles, Daralice D. "Bavarian emissary,"
 Progressive Architecture, September
 1984, pp.100-105. /RW

CREDIT DU NORD OFFICES / New York
 Gaskie, Margaret. "Boxes belie the box,"
 Architectural Record, September 1983,
 pp.96-99. /RW

CREDIT DU NORD OFFICES / New York
 "Head Office for Credit du Nord,"
 International Interior Design Award, The
 Architectural Review, November 1982,
 pp. 46-47. /RW

CREDIT DU NORD OFFICES / New York
 Szenasy, Susan S. Private and Executive
 Offices, The Office Book Design Series,
 Facts on File Inc., 1984, p.36-37. /RW

DUBAI BANK OFFICES / New York
 "Arabian Days", Architectural Record,
 January 1983, pp.85-91. /RW

GENERALE BANK OFFICES / New York
 Sachner, Paul. "Lux, calme et volupte,"
 Architectural Record - Record Interiors,
 Mid-September 1985, pp.114-119. /RW

HERRMANN HOUSE / Seaview NY
 Brenner, Douglas. "Private House, Fire
 Island, New York," Architectural Record -
 Record Houses 1983, Mid-May 1983,
 pp.80-83. /RW

RIVKIN/WEISMAN OFFICE / New York
 Szenasy, Susan S. Private and Executive
 Offices, The Office Book Design Series,
 Facts on File Inc., 1984, p.59. /RW

SCHWEITZER HOUSE / East Hampton NY
 Tyler, Jan. "A Carriage Trade," Newsday
 Fanfare, October 16, 1994, pp.26-27.
 /N+L

SHYER HOUSE / East Hampton NY
 Gordon, Alastair, "A House Divided,"
 Newsday Fanfare, August 11, 1991,
 pp.22-23. /N+L

SHYER HOUSE / East Hampton NY
 Gordon, Alastair, ed. Beauxarch '89: An
 Exposition of Recent Architecture on Long
 Island, Bridgehampton, New York:
 Hampton Day School, 1989, pp.36-39, 72.
 /N+L

SHYER HOUSE / East Hampton NY
 Miller, Ken. The Hamptons - Long Island's
 East End, New York: Rizzoli International,
 1993. /N+L

VIKING LINES / Montauk NY
 Gordon, Alastair, ed. Beauxarch '86:
 Catalogue of the Exhibition,
 Bridgehampton, New York: Hampton Day
 School, 1986, pp.40-41. /N+L

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Authorship

Report on the Landscape, Landscape Committee, Dune Alpin Farm Property Owners Association, East Hampton, New York: September 1993. 77pp.

Camp Tekakwitha Development Report, Girl Scouts of Nassau County. N+L Architects, East Hampton, New York: June 1991. 230pp.

Petition for a Variance, Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc. to NYS Department of State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Boards of Review. N+L Architects, East Hampton, New York: March 1991.

Camp Blue Bay Phase I Report, Girl Scouts of Nassau County. N+L Architects, East Hampton, New York: October 1989. 105pp.

Schematic Design Report / Site Evaluation and Programming Investigation, Riverside Child Care Center, Town of Southampton, NY. N+L Architects, East Hampton, New York: April 1989. 45pp.

Participating Authorship

Schematic Systems Report, NYS Urban Development Corporation (UDC) Housing Systems Study. Gruzen and Partners: September 1970.

Alternative Strategies for the Development of Basic Science Facilities, Medical Education Building, Tufts University School of Medicine. Tufts-New England Medical Center Planning Office: September 1969.

Preliminary Program, Medical Education Building, Tufts University School of Medicine. Tufts-New England Medical Center Planning Office: June 1969.

Cost-Benefit Analysis, Medical Education Building, Tufts University School of Medicine. Tufts-New England Medical Center Planning Office: April 1969.

Summary of Program Material, West Broadway Community Multi-Service Center, South Boston. Tufts-New England Medical Center Planning Office: January 1969.

M.H.C.P.: Interim Report, Report of the Mental Health Coupling Project, an N.I.M.H. research contract. Tufts-New England Medical Center Planning Office: October 1968.