

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT TRAVEL & RESEARCH AWARDS



**NOON | NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**CENTRE SPACE**

**JOHN A. RUSSELL BUILDING**

**FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE**

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

## TRAVEL & RESEARCH AWARD PRESENTATIONS

**Mitali Dembla**

**Canadian Masonry Research Institute Scholarship**

The travel through this award explores handmade architecture in Auroville, a design village in India. “Baked Insitu” is a peculiar technique where the structure is treated as ceramic and fire is used as a construction element. This distinctive low-cost process anchors a community component with the act of making and produces construction material instead of traditional consumption. It explores the qualities of mud and poetically treads with other elements eventually strengthening the structure.

**Connery Friesen**

**Bill Allen Scholarship in Architecture (Research)**

In 2011 Fukushima prefecture was hit by an earthquake and tsunami ultimately causing a massive nuclear catastrophe. As a result Fukushima and surrounding areas have been cut off from society and classified as an exclusion zone severing all ties between the affected region and the unaffected neighbouring communities. In addition to this immense severance the Fukushima catastrophe forced the migration of thousands of Japanese natives. Today as segments of the exclusion zone begin to be cleared, one question echoes between former residents: “Do we return?”

In the summer of 2019, with the assistance of the Bill Allen Research scholarship, Connery Friesen was able to visit what remains of the exclusion zone and speak to locals that have started returning to the area. Eight years have passed since the disaster and the now designated “Preparation Zone” continues to be in a constant state of decontamination. This tedious process involves scraping the earth of any residual radioactive particles and deconstructing what remains of the built environment.

This deconstruction is essentially a “disposing” of all building components although what is collected is too dangerous to enter the landfill and no safe method of disposal currently exists

This lecture discusses the current landscape of the eastern portion of Fukushima prefecture and Connery will not only recount stories shared with him from the current community, but will also begin to question what form future development might take.

**Andrew Simonson**

**Bill Allen Scholarship in Architecture (Travel)**

Upon receiving the Bill Allen Scholarship for travel, I planned a trip to Finland in July 2019. The purpose of this trip was to study the works of Alvar Aalto, a renowned Finnish architect who practiced architecture, furniture design, and art from early to late 1900’s. More specifically, on this trip I was exploring Aalto’s craft in building and design. His projects are complete artworks in which every detail is thoughtfully executed, from doorknobs, furniture, and structure. Projects visited include The Aalto House (1935-1936) in Helsinki, Finland; Studio Aalto (1955-1956) in Munkkiniemi, Finland; Saynatsalo Town Hall (1949-1952) in Jyväskylä, Finland; Experimental Summer House (1952-1954) in Muuratsalo, Finland; and finally, the works of Artek (beginning 1935) by Aino and Alvar Aalto.

As a conclusion to this trip, I studied contemporary Finnish sauna design and construction. Salvos is a design/build company in Northern Finland focusing on pre-fabricated sauna and cottage construction. Upon a tour of their factory and a site visit to a completed project, I gained insights into digital manufacturing techniques and methods of construction.

**PIZZA SERVED \$1 A SLICE**

For upcoming events please visit:  
[www.umanitoba.ca/architecture/events](http://www.umanitoba.ca/architecture/events)



FAUM Architecture University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Architecture | University of Manitoba



@faumanitoba



UM | Faculty of Architecture

Cultural Events 2019-2020