

Katherine Weaver, RA  
Architecture ⊥ Visual Design



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Systems Explorations Through Making

I am passionate about the intersection of architectural and graphic elements to create enriched interactions. All too often the disconnect between the built space and the visual message results in abruptly applied flat surfaces; visual elements become too easily 'decoration on sheds.' While I have a strong appreciation for kitsch and an aversion to the term 'high design,' I believe that design should be rigorously and intentionally explored and not a cultural bi-product. This takes an understanding of built forms and methods of visual communication.

A wonderful professor from graduate school has a teaching mantra: 'fail faster.' Design is an exploratory process and I explore through making. I believe strongly that the interplay between the parameters and components of various systems broadens our concepts of how and what is possible, engendering innovation. Through making, I grow my ability to integrate disparate parts into a cohesive environment free of unnecessary visual noise. A background in architecture has made me proficient in a systems method of designing as an ideation process as well as the practically based project delivery aspect of design.

Our built environment is not static, it is interactive and saturated with opportunities to enrich our experiences. As a designer, I explore dynamic integrations of architectural and visual elements with an insatiable curiosity and desire to constantly push design beyond what it is into what it can become.

Exploring the intersection of architecture and visual design to create enriched interactions.

“Once you see

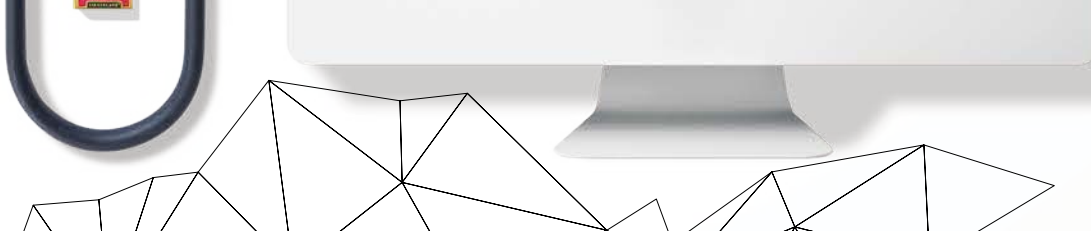
the boundaries of

your environment, they are

no longer the boundaries

of your environment.”

Marshall McLuhan



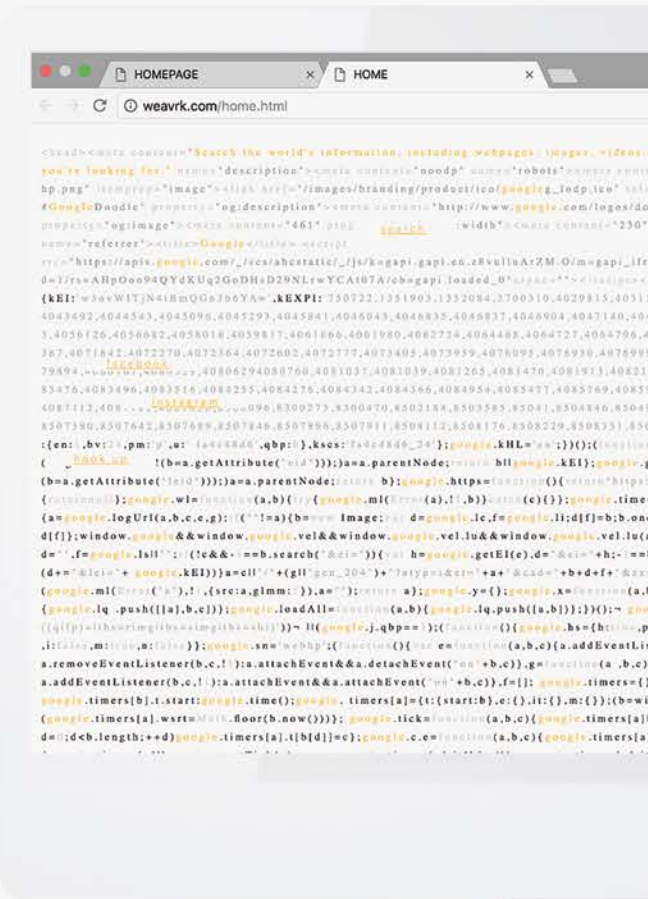
# Homepage

Website

## Virtual Intimacy

The intent of this website is to engage the user to question the intimacy of social media. The source code from popular social media sites and search engines are visually remixed with popular symbols and icons to decontextualize their meanings. There are repetitive home screens that shift in transparency as one clicks further into the site to represent the embedded layering of our relationship with the internet.

Live site: [intimacy.weavrk.com](http://intimacy.weavrk.com)



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# University Heights

Charter School

## A Catalyst for Change

After evaluating a variety of spaces in Newark, University Heights chose a unique location. A three-story brick industrial building, previously used for fashion manufacturing, is being repurposed with the combination of a two-story classroom building and a gymnasium addition. The gymnasium addition uses a Kalwall system to create a floating light box perched above metal panels painted with super-graphics to welcome students and project the school's identity.

The design balances the preservation of historic elements of the building to retain its unique character, while modernizing and upgrading the facility to enable University Heights Charter School to develop in each student the character, scholarship and leadership to succeed in all future endeavors.

## Project Data

**Location:** Newark, New Jersey

**Size:** (22,500 sf) 7,500 sf

**Removal;** 15,000 sf Addition

**Type:** School for Grades K-8

**Construction Cost:** \$13.4 million

**Role:** Project Architect and Designer from Schematic Design through Construction Administration.



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# Littleton Academy

Charter High School

## Critical Mass

Littleton Academy is set in a residential neighborhood in the city of Newark, NJ. The basic program components are organized based upon the need for a variety of public and teaching spaces. The length of the building called for a strong vertical move with the window patterning which shifts alignment to break down the mass. The classroom mass is supported by a translucent panel gymnasium and storefront public spaces, both of which are shared with the surrounding neighborhood. A playful metal canopy integrates the program components by organizing the various roofs and parapets into a cohesive form.

## Project Data

**Location:** Newark, New Jersey

**Size:** 104,00 sf New Construction

**Type:** Academic Building for Grades 9-12

**Construction Cost:** \$26.4 million

**Role:** Project Architect and Designer from preliminary site selection through Construction Documents. Managed all consultant coordination, in house staff, and day to day client communications.



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# Års Förtunåm

The Art of Luck

## Book of Superstitions

This project's playful recontextualization of commonly held superstitions uses the metaphor of a user's manual about how to live a lucky life. The resulting book blends imagery from *Ars Moriendi*, 'The Art of Dying', Ikea's user manuals, and illuminated manuscripts. Latin translations of the titles and use of Futura typeface mimic Ikea's catalogs are juxtaposed with hand lettering to integrate the visual imagery of illustrations, photography, and copper leafing.



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# Supermarket

Integrated Food Shopping

## Informed Food Choices

There exists a diminishing distinction between virtual and physical spaces as evident in retail shopping, food purchases, entertainment, and general access to knowledge. While there is a massive shift from 'mortar and bricks' stores to virtual space, physical spaces do not become extinct, they adapt. With the acquisition of Whole Foods by Amazon and the escalating trend of prepackaged meal services that are delivered to the doorstep and curbside pickup, how might the supermarket adapt?

The rat maze that exists in the current grocery store models should be more intuitive and informative. Modifications to the physical layout of shelving through a crenulated perimeter of displays can help the grocery shopping experience become easier to navigate. The supermarket also has the potential to aid shoppers in making informed food choices. No longer do shoppers need to be confused by an overabundance of 'eat this, not that.' The organization of food can be displayed in terms of a food's glycemic load and fullness factor. This is a simple start to healthier choices based on less added sugars and a reduction of processed foods.



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## Experience

**Current** Registered Architect  
Currently licensed in New Jersey and Pennsylvania

**2018** Jewish Educational Alliance, Environmental Graphics Designer  
Wayfinding project for Savannah's Community Center

**2008-15** KSS Architects, Project Architect  
337 Witherspoon St., Princeton, New Jersey 08540

**Littleton Academy Team Charter High School, KIPP-NJ**  
Project Architect and Designer for a 104,000 sf, \$26.8 MIL high school academic building.

**Bancroft Special Needs Campus**  
Project Designer for a 325,000 sf, \$52 MIL education center.

**University Heights Charter School, Turner-Agassi Charter School Fund**  
Project Architect for a 34,000 sf, \$13.4 MIL elementary and middle Charter School.

**Aeroponic Vertical Farming Facility, Aerofarms**  
Project Designer for a 77,000 sf, \$30 MIL urban farm.

**The Eden Institute, Eden Family Services**  
Intern Architect for a 32,000 sf, \$12.8 MIL educational development and outreach center for special needs students.

**2009-10** KSS Architects, Marketing Coordinator

**2018** Master of Arts in Graphic Design and Visual Experience  
Savannah College of Art and Design

**2008** Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design  
Columbia University

**2006** Bachelor of Architecture, Professional Degree  
The Pennsylvania State University

**2018** Students to Watch 2018  
GDUSA

**2018** Excelsus Laureate (Graduate Valedictorian) Nominee  
Savannah College of Art and Design

**2017** Communication Award in Typography  
Red Dot Awards

**2016** Achievement Graduate Scholarship  
Savannah College of Art and Design

**2018** Digital Graffiti  
Artists Exhibition at the Alys Beach annual Festival of Lights, Sound, and Movement.

**2008** Abstract  
Publication of Columbia University's GSAPP selected student work.

**2007** Canadain Center for Architecture Exhibition, Utopia's Ghost  
A class exhibition of curated architectural renderings revealing the specter of Modernist architectural utopias in the Postmodern era.

## Resume