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Women in the Design World: Work in Progress

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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## Amie Gross, AIA / AB Architecture, 1975

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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**575 FIFTH AVENUE | BROOKLYN, NY**  
**ARCHITECT**  
**APRIL 2010**

575 Fifth Avenue is a 35,000 square foot supportive housing building, the first of its kind in the community of Park Slope, Brooklyn. This mixed-use, supportive housing development is comprised of offices, retail, and apartments for 48 individuals in need including the elderly, those who have been formerly homeless and young adults coming out of foster care. The client, The Fifth Avenue Committee, a local not-for-profit, runs a workforce training program in skilled woodworking that provided the cabinetwork including cabinets, counters and storage units fabricated in bamboo, designed by AGA.

The project though with a moderate construction budget, relates strongly to its neighborhood, as well as achieving a high level of sustainability to reduce operating costs and promote wellness. 575 Fifth is awaiting certification for a LEED Gold rating. The building is 5 stories at the commercial street side and cuts back to 4 stories as it meets the lower, smaller scaled buildings on the side street. Further, a stepped mezz leading to a garden entrance between the new building and the community's existing homes reinforces the pedestrian scale. The garden containing seating and recreational areas, a fountain as well as shrubs and flowers native to Brooklyn weaves the building into the community.

575 Fifth initially met with some community opposition; AGA was actively involved with FAC to reach an agreement with the neighborhood and the building is now considered a valued part of the community. This history, and the building's distinctive design elements, creates an iconic symbol for the neighborhood.



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*Alumnae Biography*

**BIOGRAPHY**

Amie Gross AIA is president of Amie Gross Architects, now celebrating its 30th anniversary. The firm's work at the intersection of public policy and architecture has garnered significant media attention. Working primarily with not for profit organizations, AGA designs affordable and supportive housing; community centers;

athletic and educational facilities as well as office spaces. Ms. Gross' education at WU has played a critical role in her life as an architect, stemming from the acceptance she felt at the school as a woman, to the socially responsible work of several studios. Her WU connection continues, especially through the mentorship of Professor Leslie Laskey, WU Prof. Emeritus.

**AWARDS**

- 2013 TEDx Speaker: Mihi Cura Futuri - The Care of the Future is Mine, Hunter College High School
- 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award Washington University, School of Architecture

**PUBLICATIONS**

- "A Battle Joined Over a Plan to House the Needy" The New York Times, April 2007
- "Affordable Platinum in Park Slope" Green Buildings NYC, January 2009
- "Affordable Landmarks" DDC Journal, Fall 2010