



# Project 0905 Arts Union Beacon

A B Abruzzo Bodziak  
A Architects

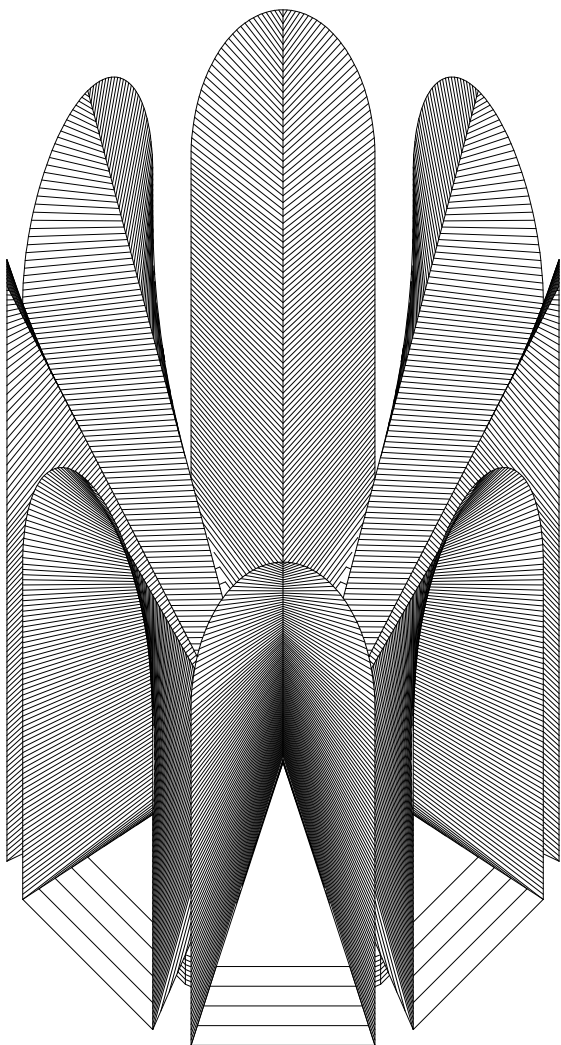


Project 0905  
Arts Union Beacon

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# Project Details



Project 0905  
Arts Union Beacon

Client: City of Somerville, MA

Program: Civic Monument

Location: Somerville, MA, USA

Dimensions: 14'-0" x 14'-0" x 16'-0"

Collaborators: Simpson Gumpertz &  
Heger (Structural Engineering),  
Lam Partners (Lighting Design),  
Caliper Studio (Fabrication Consultant)

Status: Construction / Tower  
Restoration





# Project Description



## Project 0905 Arts Union Beacon

A beacon for the city of Somerville, Massachusetts' historic firehouse aims to give identity to Union Square and the city beyond. A replacement for the building's cupola, long-since demolished, ABA's design of eight curved, extruded shells suggests the arched openings of the original, making solid form of the historical voids.

Surfaced in brushed stainless steel, these shells glow from within when they receive illumination from below. With the remaining cupola structure rendered invisible, the beacon is a kind of ethereal remnant of the tower's past. A rounded, gentle, but bright light emerges from within the shells, stopping sharply at their edges. The dark, vertical voids formed in between

reference the columns that once held up the cupola's roof.

The forms will be fabricated from water-jet cut brushed stainless steel sheets, which will then be folded and bolted together. Once hoisted onto the roof and affixed to the base framework, the shells will be fitted with an energy-efficient LED lighting system. The lights will be programmed to change color in coordination with events in Somerville's Union Square, furthering the symbol of the beacon as a communication tool.



Somerville Union Square Firehouse,  
Circa 1910



Somerville Union Square Firehouse,  
Circa 1910

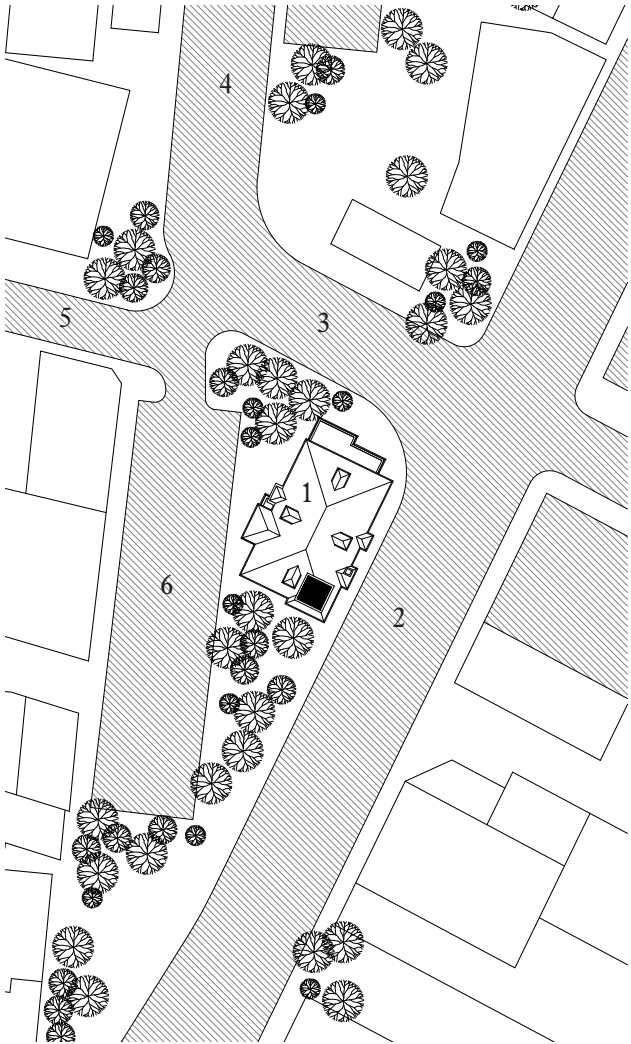


Somerville Union Square Circa 1910



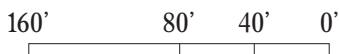


# Project Documentation



## Key:

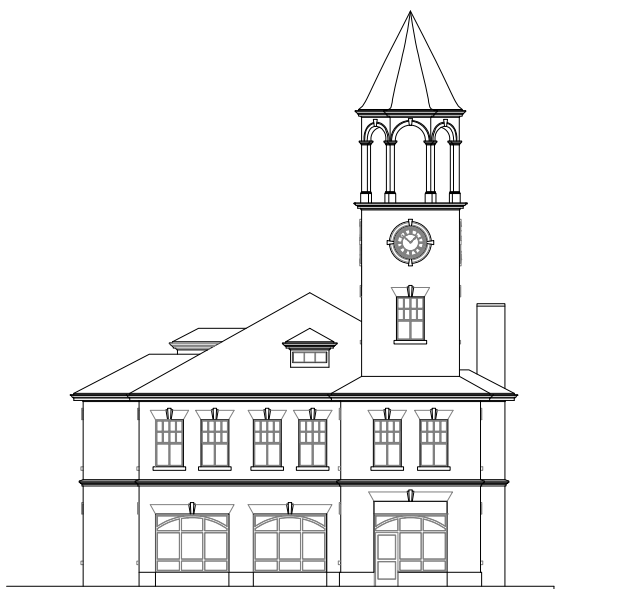
1. Union Square Firehouse
2. Somerville Avenue
3. Prospect Street
4. Washington Street
5. Bonner Avenue
6. Parking / Event Space



Site Plan







1910

20

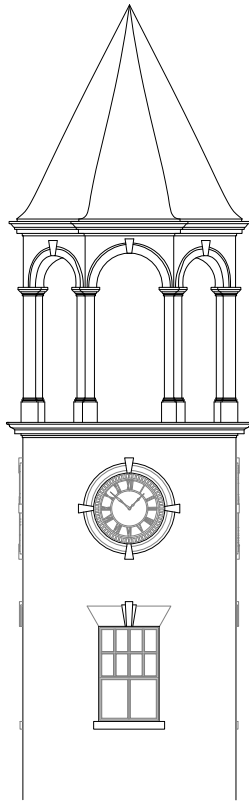
Arts Union Beacon



2017

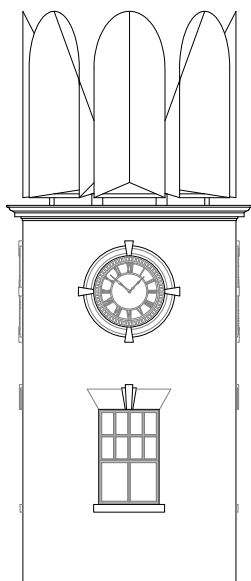
21

A B A



1910

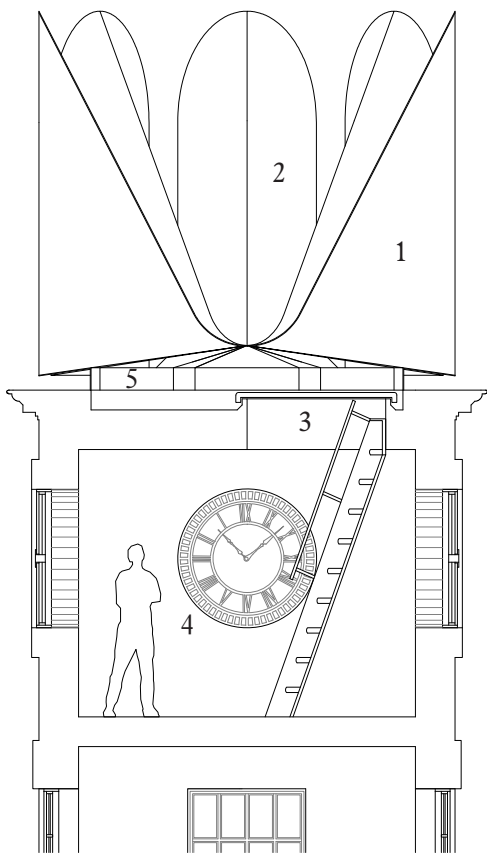




2017

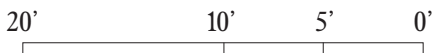
23

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Key:

1. Interior: Mirror Finish Stainless Steel
2. Exterior: Mill Finish
3. Access
4. Refurbished Clock
5. Lighting Fixtures



Section

25

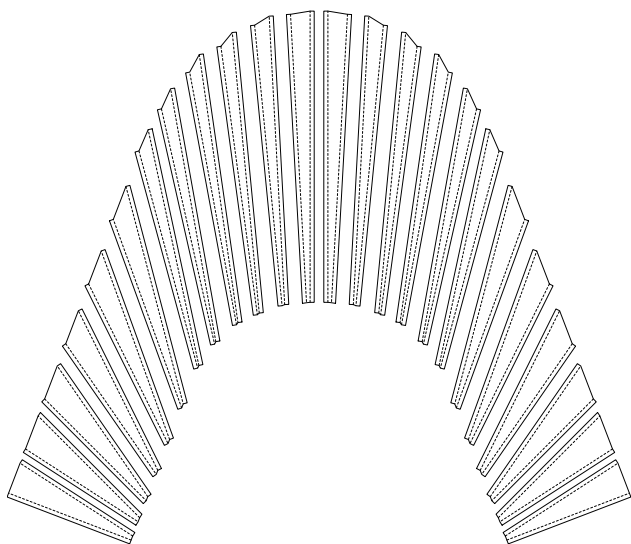
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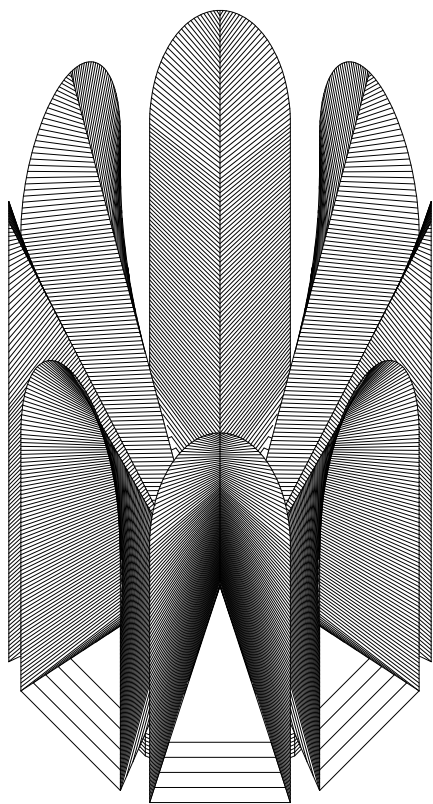
View from Somerville Avenue

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Panelization Diagram showing  
proposed fabrication of each shell





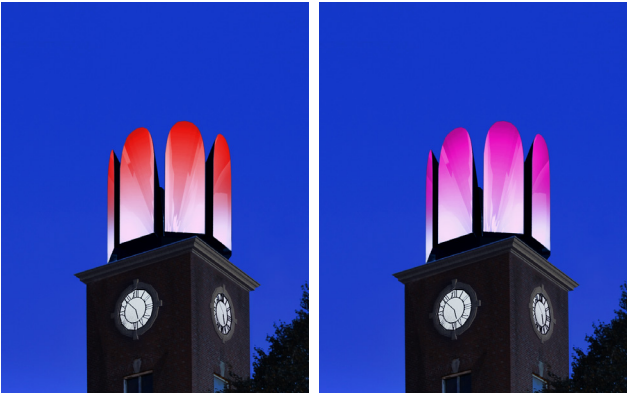


Variable Color performance with LED  
lighting technology

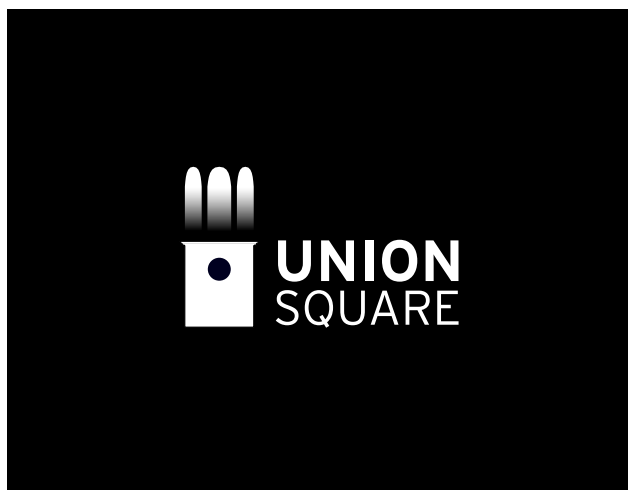








Variable Color performance with LED  
lighting technology



Using the beacon for branding Union  
Square



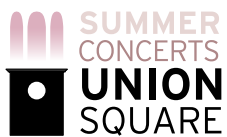
Using the beacon to broadcast  
thematic events at Union Square for  
programming opportunities





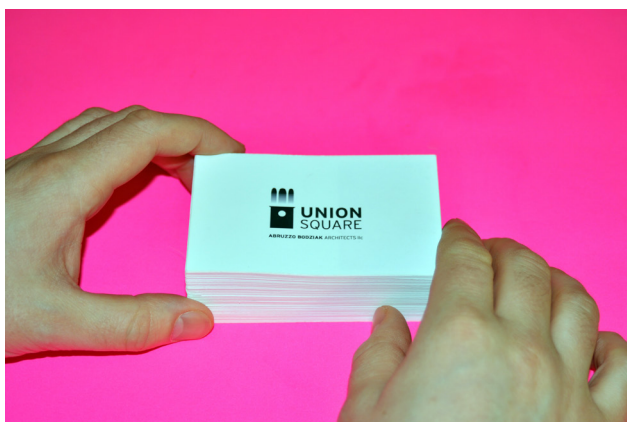


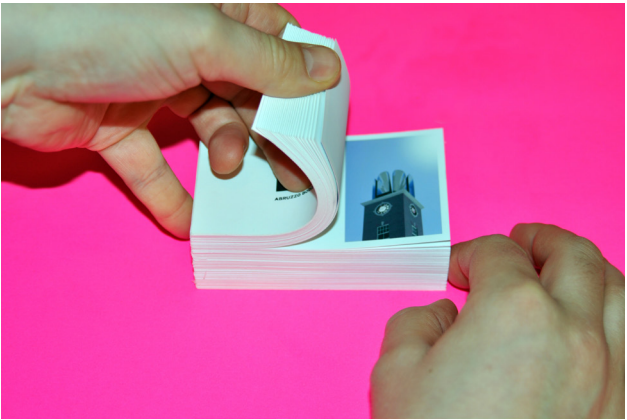
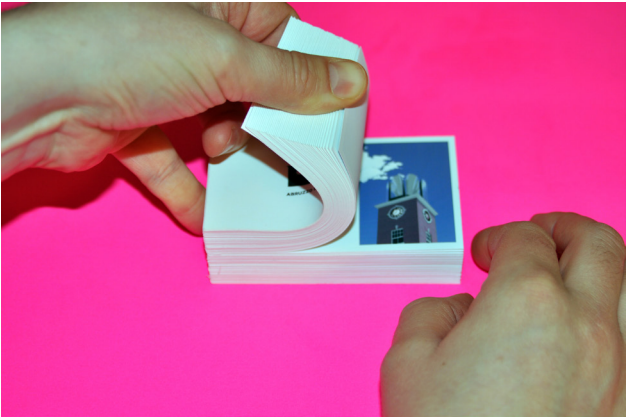
## The Beacon as backdrop to Union Square





Seasonal programming at Union Square





Flipbook 24 hour animation of variable light and atmospheric conditions



# Information





## Abruzzo Bodziak

Abruzzo Bodziak Architects is an award-winning New York-based practice with experience ranging from civic and cultural projects to homes, exhibitions, and research-based initiatives. A thought leader in the field, the firm's work is rooted in experience and is defined by an innovative approach to contextuality, relentless focus on detail, and aesthetic achievement with a strong conceptual viewpoint.

Established by Emily Abruzzo and Gerald Bodziak, ABA has been recognized by the Architectural League of New York (the 2010 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects and Designers), the AIA (New Practices New York 2012 and a 2013 AIA New York Design Award), *Wallpaper Magazine* (Architects Directory 2013: "The world's



KARB

Journal of Landscape Architecture

2013

UNCHARTED TERRITORIES

21

GROWING URBAN HABITATS

GROWING

Growing Urban Habitats documents and expands on Urban Habitats, an international design

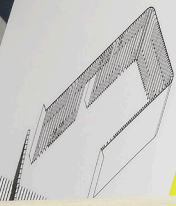
3.11/After

記憶と再生へのプロセス

MAGIC

Young Architects 12: Resource

編者  
責任者



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2  
1  
2



best young practices”), *Architectural Record* (2016 Design Vanguard), and the New York City DDC (Design + Construction Excellence Program).

The office’s work has been featured in international publications such as *Architectural Record*, *Wired*, *Fast Company*, *FRAME*, *Domus*, *PIN-UP*, *Baumeister*, and *Cultured*, and has been exhibited by institutions such as Exit Art, Japan Foundation, Storefront for Art and Architecture, The Boston Society of Architects, and as part of The New Museum Festival of Ideas, with the Audi Urban Future Initiative.

Emily Abruzzo, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB is a Founding Partner of ABA. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College and her Master of Architecture from Princeton University, where she also received a Certificate in Media and Modernity and was named a Fellow at The Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies. Currently a Critic at the Yale School of Architecture, Emily is a founding editor and publisher of 306090 Books, and a 2014 MacDowell Fellow. She is a citizen of both the United States and Italy.

Gerald Bodziak, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB is a Founding Partner of ABA. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and his Master of Architecture from Princeton University. Gerald is a Fellow of The Forum



and Institute for Urban Design, and has taught design and construction courses at numerous institutions including Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. He is a citizen of the United States.



# Imprint





Project 0905  
Arts Union Beacon

Publication:

2017, Abruzzo Bodziak Architects  
68 Jay St. #414, Brooklyn NY, 11201  
(aba.nyc)

Photography:

ABA

Graphic Design:

Studio Lin (studiolin.org)

Printing:

Lulu (lulu.com)

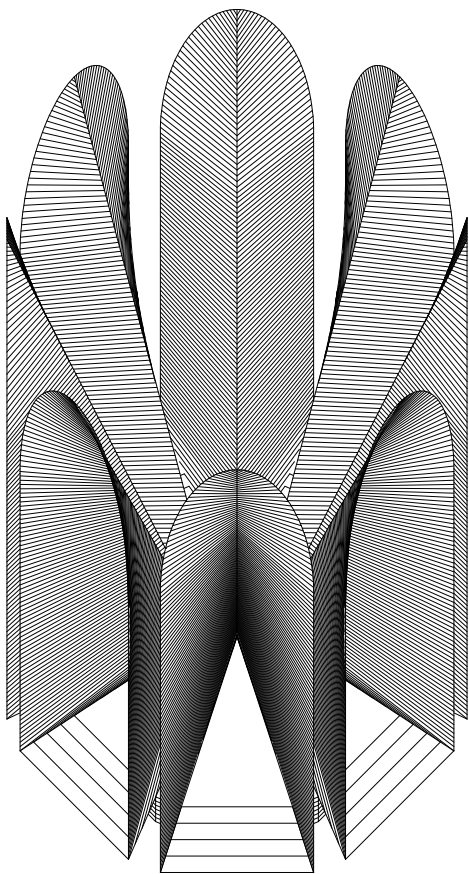
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## ABA Project Booklets

1701	“Reflected Ceiling”
1505	“Trade”
1402	“Packed House”
1304	“Bomb Squad”
1302	“West Village Pied-a-terre”
1213	“Irish Hills House”
1212	“FitNation”
1204	“Landscape (Triptych)”
1106	“Space Frame”
1018	“Grow A Lot “
0905	“Arts Union Beacon”





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