

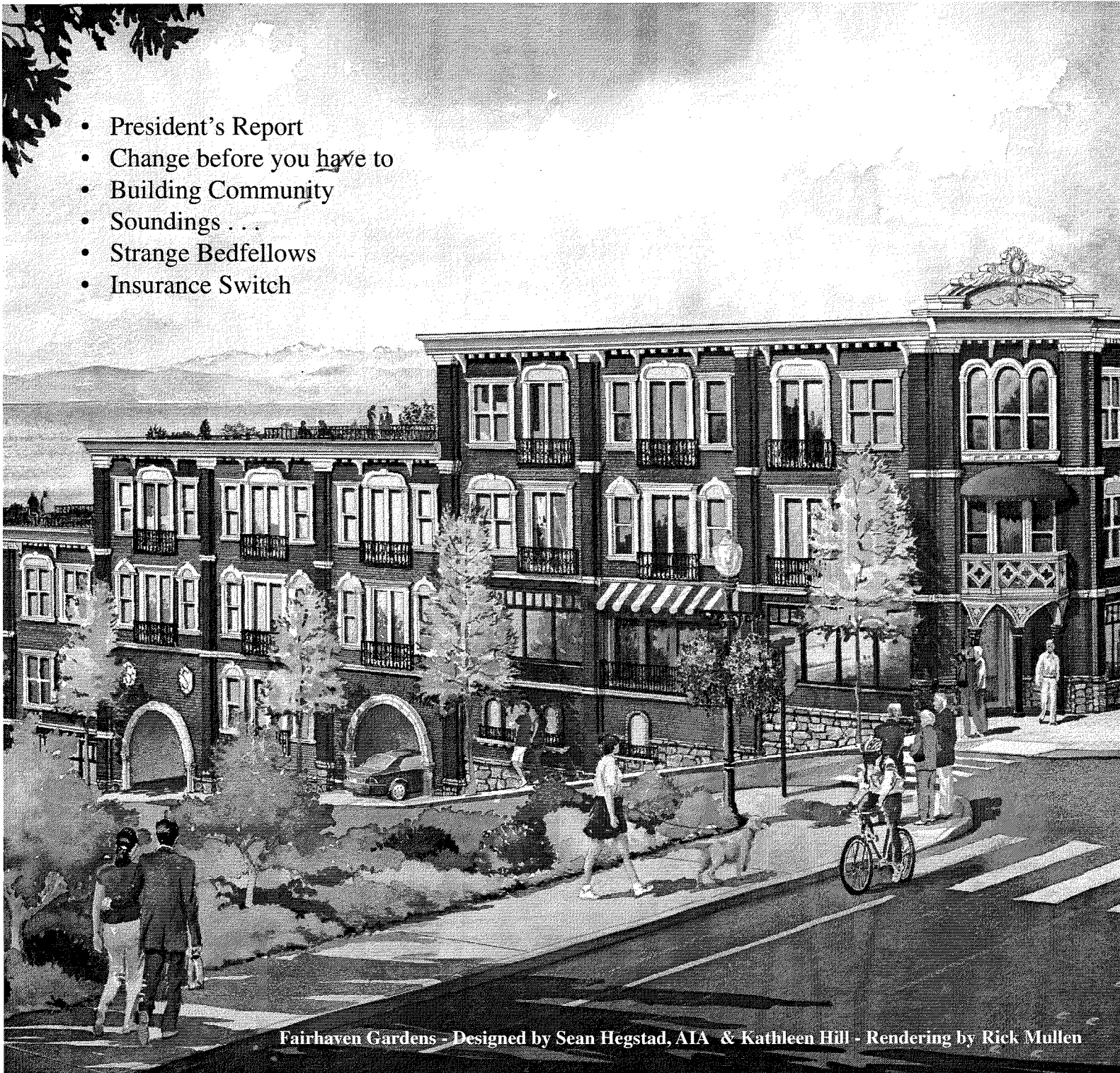
July 2004



NORTHWEST WASHINGTON ARCHITECT

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS: SERVING: ISLAND, SAN JUAN, SKAGIT AND WHATCOM COUNTIES
To serve the community by enhancing the quality of the built environment and promoting the value of excellence in design and planning

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- Building Community
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Fairhaven Gardens - Designed by Sean Hegstad, AIA & Kathleen Hill - Rendering by Rick Mullen

“Soundings . . .”



Soundings has always been what I look forward to reading first when I receive my NWAIA Newsletter. A while ago I was fortunate enough to be asked to be the featured Architect in Soundings and I gratefully accepted. Since I've only had my office open for the past year-and-a-half I feel it's best for me to let you know from where I've come, where I am and where I'm going. So below is a sketch of my experience so far.



Sean Hegstad, AIA

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Bellingham, WA 98225

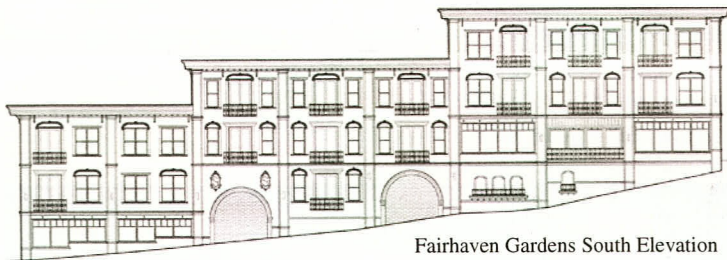
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Deception Shores
Rendering by Rick Mullen

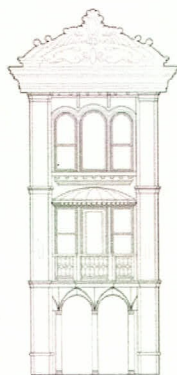


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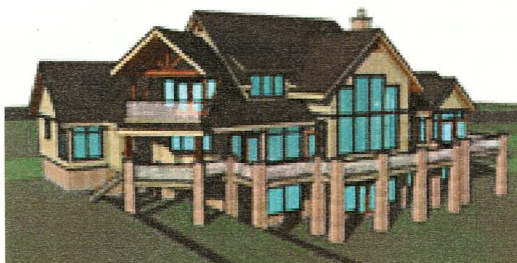


Fairhaven Gardens South Elevation

I developed a strong sense of the environment growing up among the woods, fields, and lakes of Lacey, Washington. My friends and I built every imaginable fort from tree to dirt and stick to snow as well as a prickly blackberry fort. I think that this really helped shape my respect of the natural environment and our potential effect on it. Several years later, I took my first “architectural” class in high school. I was introduced to AutoCAD 9 and designed my first house for a “client” that owned a farm. These and many other things, including a Girder & Panel set, lead me to pursue Architecture as a profession.

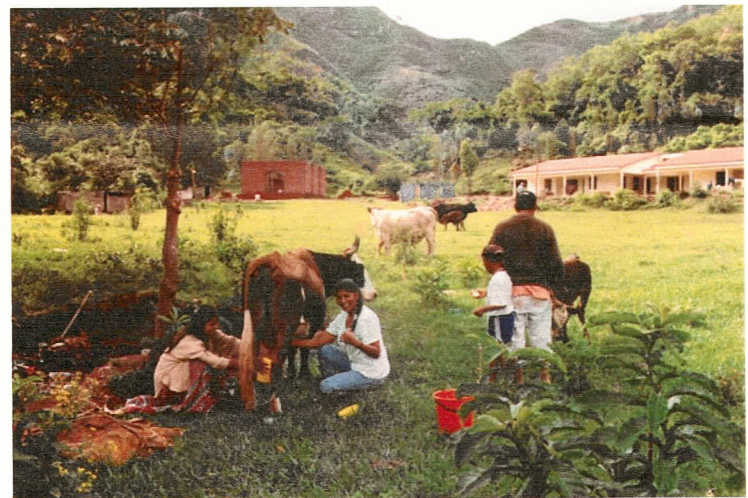


Fairhaven Gardens
South East Elevation



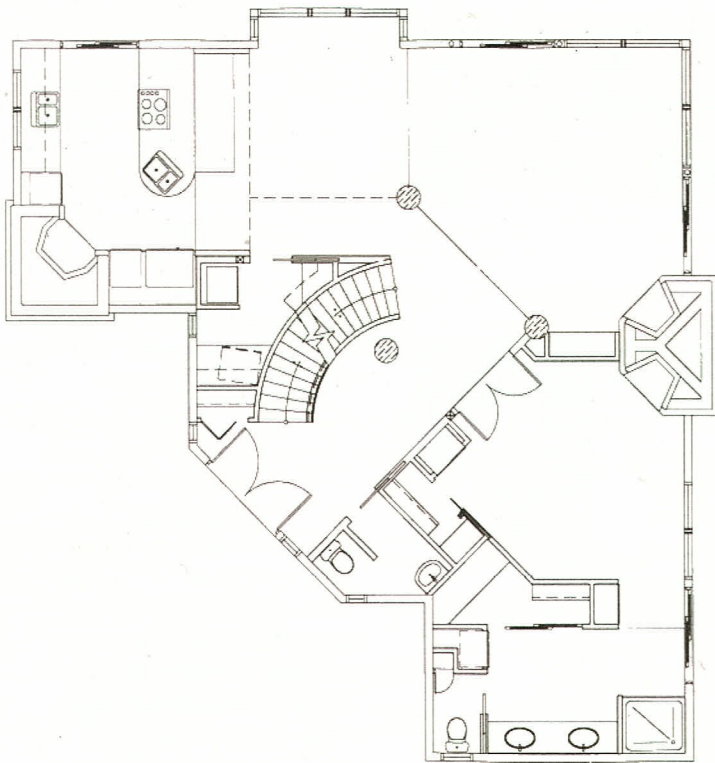
Deception Shores

I decided to attend Andrews University, a small Christian school in Southwest Michigan. While there I served as Chapter President and later as a National Director of the American Institute of Architecture Students. Working as a residential framer during school and summers helped pay college and gave me some practical learning that no Architect should be without..



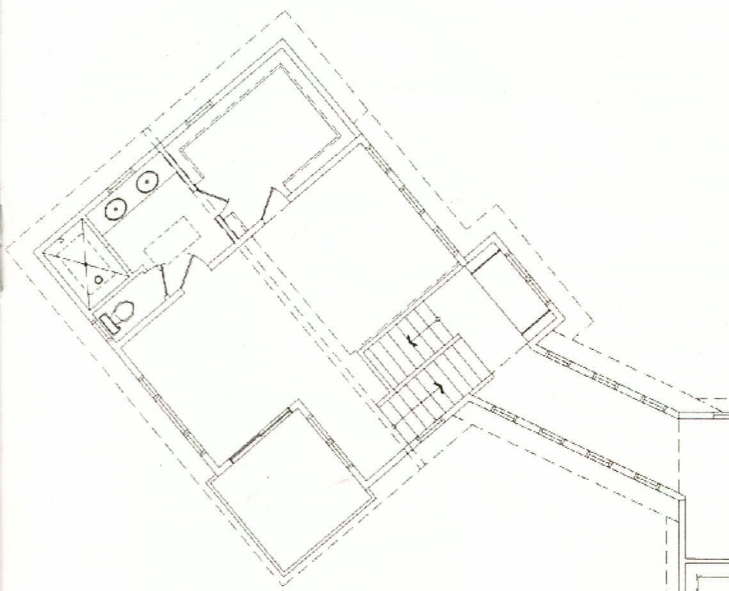
Also while in college, I traveled. In Rio Lajas, Bolivia, a group of students and I built an orphanage that we designed in an elective studio. The following summer I worked for an Architectural firm in Berlin, Germany. After the internship was finished, I traveled throughout Northern Germany and spent a week in Scandinavia.

After working in Berlin, I finished my summer working at Zervas Group Architects before my final year at Andrews. After graduation ZGA made me an offer that I couldn't refuse, including living in the apartment above the office. I worked there four-and-a-half years and learned a lot about what it takes to be an Architect, including design, drafting, client meetings, construction observation, and how to run an office. At ZGA I worked in all phases of commercial, institutional, public, and residential projects. I was also fortunate enough to be the project manager for two NWAIA Honor Award projects: the Wood Stone Building & Tenant Improvement and the Toolhouse Design Company Tenant Improvement, both in Bellingham.



Orcas Island Residence

While getting licensed, I was offered a position with Pelletier + Schaar of Stanwood. There I gained more experience in residential design, my favorite type of work, with projects on Camano Island and in the Seattle area. Also at this time, I worked as a design consultant for Deaf Northwest as they worked through the process of Schematic Design on an assisted living facility for the deaf and deaf/blind community near Portland, Oregon. About a year-and-a-half later, work got sparse at P+S. I was laid off, thus starting the next phase of my career.

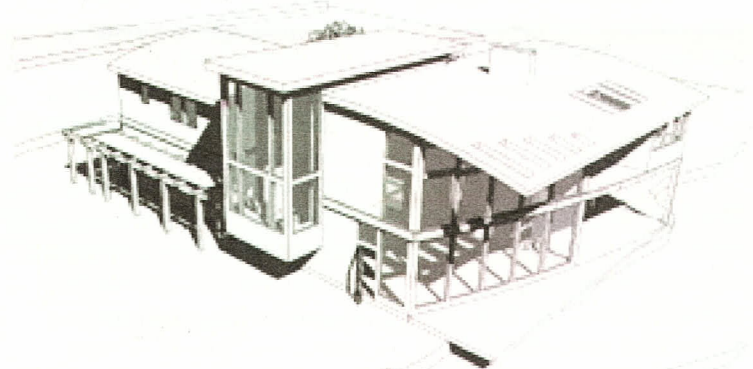


Sudden Valley Master Suite & Bridge

I looked for work all the way to Seattle. With nothing of promise out there, I decided to start my own firm. Starting with a couple of small addition/remodels, it was a bit slow. But this allowed me time to develop the systems I would later need. A couple of months later I met a building designer, Kathleen Hill, who was working in Fairhaven and was hoping to work with an Architect in order to pursue some larger scale projects. This relationship brought forward my first substantial project, Fairhaven Gardens, a mixed-use complex located at the northern end of downtown Fairhaven. I worked as the Project Architect on Fairhaven Gardens and took the project through Schematic Design and Design Development. Kathleen and I also received approval for a variance for an additional floor and design approval from the Landmark Review Board.



St. Joseph Residence



This year I'm keeping busy as I continue to refine my business practices. Currently I'm working on several residential projects; the Smith Residence overlooking Lake Samish, the Bussell Residence in Sudden Valley, the Bixel Residence on Lake Whatcom, and the Shockley Residence on Orcas Island along with several other additions/remodels in the area. I have also done some computer modeling in order to give my clients a better understanding of the design and how different options affect the way their building is perceived.

My biggest blessing this year was on March 13th when my wife, Jaimi, and I had our first child, Caleb Aaron Hegstad. I guess you really don't truly appreciate the miracle of life until you have a child of your own. Since then, my priorities in life have been re-ordered. Work now has increased importance as money is tighter, but family now overrides most other things in my life.

From blackberry forts to starting my own practice, it's been an exciting path. I look forward to the continued adventure! •