

# Steven Grootaert

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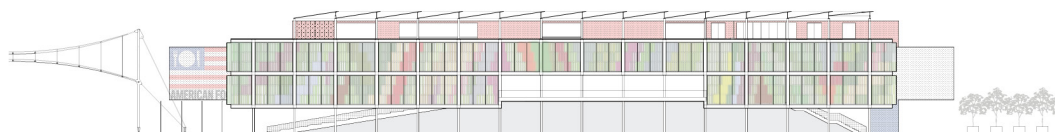
## USA Pavilion for the 2015 Milan EXPO

Milan, Italy  
Biber Architects

In 2013, Biber Architects was awarded the State Department contract to design the USA Pavilion and to be the creative director for the Pavilion experience at the Milan Expo. I came to the firm ready to turn a 3D concept model into a set of drawings suitable for permit submission.

When the project was handed off to the team's Italian architect of record, our collaboration with them became a daily conversation about how to meet building feasibility and local code requirements while maintaining our design vision for an open and enriching experience. While the construction timeline for this project was aggressive given the scale and complexity of the USA Pavilion program, it was completed in time for opening day.

By all measures the USA pavilion was a success. It was rewarding to be a part of something as unique as this, involving collaboration with so many disciplines, from conception to completion.



## Clinton Street Baking Company

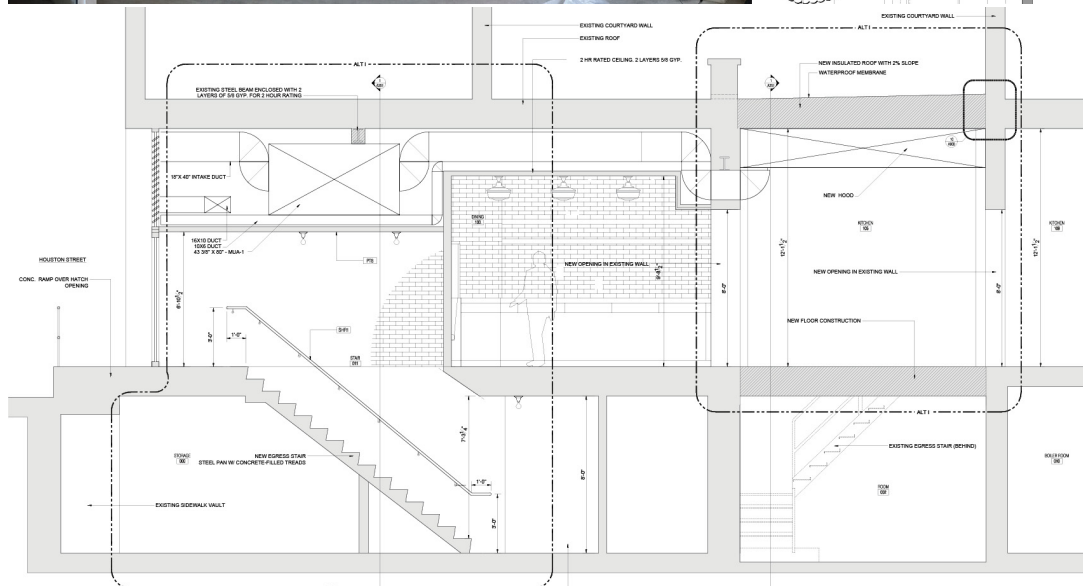
New York, NY  
Biber Architects

The Clinton Street Baking Company was looking to ease the 3 hour wait time for brunch by expanding their dining room and kitchen into the adjacent corner grocery that had just become available.

The horizontal addition and change of egress was filed under an Alteration Type 1 and the interior renovation to the dining room was filed under an Alteration Type 2; and those filings referenced each other to make a complete project.

The kitchen addition, that spans over the interior courtyard on the ground level, was necessary in order to connect the existing restaurant to the new expansion. This seemingly simple intervention required close coordination with Mechanical and Structural Engineers, building owner, and plan examiner to resolve conflicts and code requirements.

I was heavily involved with every step of this project from schematic design, construction documents, bidding, permits and approvals, to construction administration and sign off.



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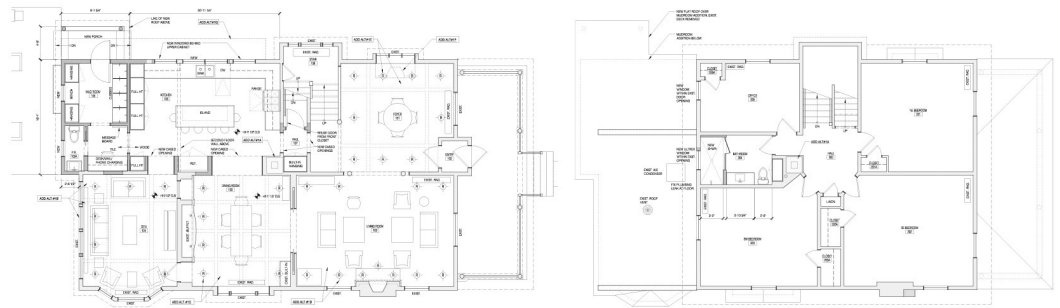
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## Kitchen Remodel and Addition

Minneapolis, MN  
U+B Architecture and Design

This charming historic home had an underutilized space that was in need of reorganization so that it would better serve the lifestyle of the family. The kitchen now benefits from a seamless connection to the dining room and serves as a hub for the rear entry. A mudroom, home office, and powder room have been added behind the kitchen bringing critical functionality into the home.

I was involved with the project from Schematic Design through Design Development and worked with the family to provide a multitude of design options. Many options, some adding larger additions, were considered but a more integrated solution with matching transitional woodwork became a more obvious choice for this family home.



## Maple Grove Central Park

Maple Grove, MN  
U+B Architecture and Design

The city of Maple Grove was developing a master plan for an urban park where this warming house and public hall would be a main feature and community destination. Centrally located, this pavilion visually anchors other features of the park such as an ice skating rink, sport courts, fountain and playground. Great effort was made to visually float the roof as much as possible to bring unify the various program spaces under a single long light filled span.

I assisted with drafting of detailed design development drawings and also created presentation graphics. I worked with two other team members coordinating red-lines and alternates on a tight schedule to complete the set on time for preliminary bidding.





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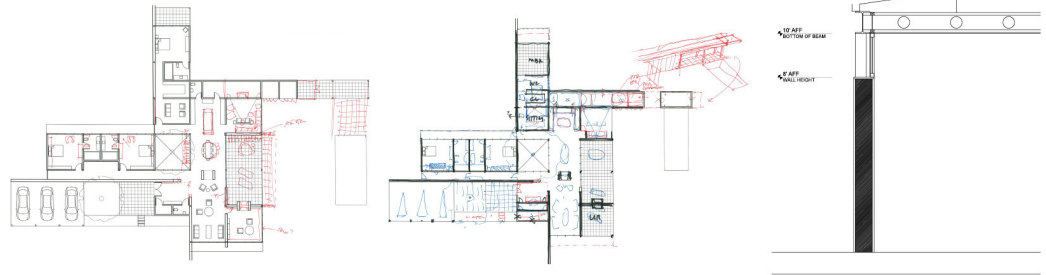
## HAUS Luxury Residences

East Hampton, NY  
Biber Architects

**Hamptons Adaptive Universal System:**  
Developed in a partnership with IMAESTRI, an international luxury home developer, HAUS is a system that can be quickly tailored to fit the needs of the discerning buyer in the semi custom home market.

Governed by a common design approach, each iteration is unique yet inherits known quantities and benefits from pre-engineered cost savings. A strong cross axis of load bearing walls divides the living and sleeping areas; affording large floor to ceiling sliding glass windows and surfaces that run visually uninterrupted between spaces help create a seamless transition between indoors and out.

A heavily iterative process; I worked fluidly between plans, sections, and digital model for design review. We ultimately delivered a package of illustrative drawings and various renderings to our client for their marketing materials.



## Parkway Montessori Middle School

St. Paul, MN  
U+B Architecture and Design

We were approached by a Montessori school that needed to convert an existing junior high school by redesigning existing spaces to better suit their education initiatives. I assisted with the drafting of construction documents and worked with three other team members coordinating red-lines and alternates on a fast-track schedule to complete the set on time for construction so that the project would be complete by the beginning of the school year.

As my first project with this firm, already underway, I quickly learned the office standards and work flow so that I could be as effective as possible. We would review drawings and details, for internal quality control insuring a complete coordinated construction set required for a tight construction schedule.



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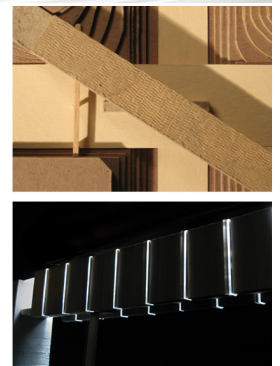
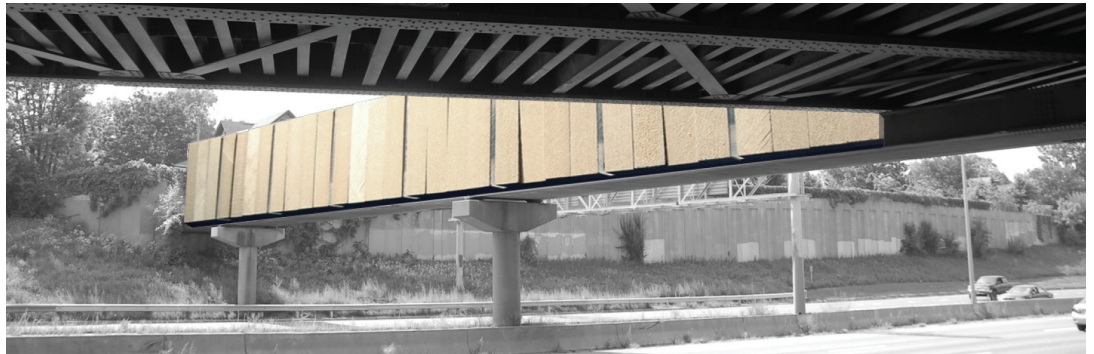
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## Bridge to Nowhere

*Graduate Design II : Fall 2009*

I was fascinated by this walking bridge that is inaccessible from either side and in reality goes nowhere - it just exists. Every time I would drive underneath it, I became more curious as to how it came to be; a narrow bridge that dead ends from a concrete retaining wall and disappears into the side of a rail bridge. This site is for all intents and proposes hidden, not just from view but from thought.

Programming was not in the scope of this project for the site. The intent was to focus on a methodological design process to create an intervention that transformed our chosen site by registering and amplifying the inherent character conditions of the context. The bridge is conceptually closed off, impermeable and inert above the exposed and free flowing highway below; hidden from sight from passersby above - overlooked by those below.



## B2N Studio

*St. Paul, MN : 2019*

I've never forgotten about this place I discovered during a grad school studio course asking us to find unique sites to explore concepts in serial manipulation. I further developed and refined this intervention located out of sight and out of mind. Rooted with a sense of the forgotten, I designed this work studio as a hide-away, as a place to isolate and escape; visible but otherwise inaccessible.

Forever dividing the neighborhood that once stood here, interstate construction carved into the landscape and cleared away a corridor of homes and buildings. The rail line used to be an at grade crossing and is now supported by a bridge and embankment. It would seem that the "bridge" that remains today is located near what was left over from the road that once connected to the other side. The narrow "bridge" abuts the retaining wall on the south side and passes untouched underneath the rail bridge into a concrete barrier on the other side of the interstate. This inaccessible site is a strange vestigial urban remnant - possibly a utility that had to cross the new interstate and couldn't easily be relocated, or a maintenance walkway. It's purpose for existence is unclear.

