

Team Bridges

Bridging Ideas, Places & People

Inspired by the many bridges shaping Montpelier and the area, Team Bridges is a purposeful blend of 15 accomplished and passionate professionals from 10 companies and organizations, representing the following disciplines:

- Advertising
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Branding
- Curation
- Education
- Energy
- Healthcare Administration
- Illustration
- Landscape Architecture
- Legal
- Marketing
- Planning
- Policy Development
- Real Estate Development
- Urban Design

Roger Allbee

Former Secretary

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

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Roger is currently CEO of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT—a rural health care center. He is the former Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Marketing, responsible for food safety, animal health, environmental stewardship, water quality, agricultural development and marketing, land use, and public policy, and requiring collaboration with public and private entities at international, national, regional, state, and local levels.

Relevant Projects

- Past chair of the Working Landscape Council of the VT Council on Rural Development
- Served as Blue Ribbon Panel Member the National Agricultural Landscapes Forum
- Chair Advisory Committee to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Vermont

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Jay Ancel

Partner

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A resident of Montpelier for 38 years and founding partner at Black River Design Architects, Jay knows the project core area. He is adept at providing a local overview having a strong sense of the Montpelier pulse, enabling team members with an outside point-of-view to develop fresh big-picture concepts that are both unique and relevant. He is former President of the Montpelier Downtown Association, Board of the Vermont Preservation Trust, and State Board of Architects.

Relevant Projects

- Completed restaurants for Sarduccis and NECI; a variety of housing; Montpelier Police and Fire stations; Elementary, Middle and High School renovations and additions; and work at the Vermont College of Fine Arts
- Completed LEED, Living Building Challenge, and Net Zero projects, including deep energy retrofit of historic structures
- Consultant to communities looking at new Form Based Code inclusive mixed use zoning

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Vincent Appel

Founding Partner

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Vincent has led the design, management, and construction of architectural, urban design, and public sculpture projects in New York City (NYC) and throughout the country. He has forged successful partnerships with architects for projects in Helsinki, California, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and NYC. As the creative lead with OPA in NYC, Vincent focuses on innovative cultural projects spanning architecture, social sculpture, large-scale public art, and urbanism.

Relevant Projects

- Nestle Chocolate factory campus—masterplan for a mixed use development of old Nestle factory campus in Fulton, NY
- Staten Island Arts Space—multi function public arts space and headquarters for Staten Island Arts
- 76 Cooper Street and 1 John Street—76 Cooper is a 5 story multifamily apartment building including above code passive and active energy solutions, and 1 John Street is a 12-story multifamily condo building and open space at Brooklyn Bridge Park (With Snohetta)

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Douglas Cooper

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Douglas has taught drawing in Carnegie Mellon's School of Architecture since 1976, and is the author of a well-known text on the subject, Drawing and Perceiving (John Wiley & Sons). For the last 25 years, he has worked collaboratively to produce large panoramic murals (up to 200 feet-long and 15 feet-high) in various cities, worldwide, and these murals present a highly personal record of the urban life of each city, including: Frankfurt, Qatar, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rome, San Francisco and Seattle.

Relevant Projects

- 200 ft-long mural for Carnegie Mellon Center (1996) shows the campus and Pittsburgh in three time periods
- Mural series for Seattle's King County Courthouse (2005) depicts the geography, history and land-use patterns of that region
- Created a 9m x 6m mural for Frankfurt's central market (1996)

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Stefani Danes

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Stefani focuses on the design of environmentally-responsive housing, and her work includes urban housing, housing for special populations, urban design, and planning for neighborhood revitalization. LEED accredited, she creates environments that are healthy and enjoyable, economical to operate, and judicious in the use of natural resources. She also teaches design studios at Carnegie Mellon's Master of Urban Design and Bachelor of Architecture programs.

Relevant Projects

- Several award-winning urban design projects and housing developments
- Planning Commissioner for the City of Pittsburgh for six years
- In the Bombay office of Charles Correa, designed a high-density self-help alternative to public housing

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Archie Kasnet

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Archie uses systems thinking to drive regenerative solutions. An experienced entrepreneur, he identifies and scales net-positive solutions to sustainability challenges by building partnerships and creating business value. With a deep commitment to protecting global biodiversity, Archie is also President of StratLeade Sustainability Education, Trustee at the Intentional Endowments Network, and board member of Atira Systems, Inc.

Relevant Projects

- Involved in pre-development process of One Congress St in Boston and the Jazan Economic City in Saudi Arabia
- Worked with Intrawest Corporation's commercial real estate development business and proposed strategic solutions to embed sustainability into their core operations through executive and employee engagement
- Wrote a position paper on energy security to inform Vice President Joseph Biden's energy platform, and was a contributing author on Healthy Solutions for the Low Carbon Economy published through Harvard Medical School

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Ethan Lay-Sleeper

Project Planner

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Ethan's experience in the fields of architecture and planning for both the public and private sectors ranges from designing and promoting LEED certified buildings, to incorporating LEED-focused performance standards and renewable energy systems into municipal planning efforts. As a planner for Sasaki Associates, he works in interdisciplinary teams to produce planning, design, and policy solutions focused on place-making and sustainability.

Relevant Projects

- Researched energy-related bills in MA legislature and built support through industry and political partnerships
- Ensured the specification of sustainable and efficient materials in interior and exterior project manuals, AZ, MT, NV
- Developed design and zoning package to implement a Planned Area Development for a 77-acre mixed-use edge city, AZ

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Ken Millman

Founder + Director

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Ken has developed and managed marketing, branding and advertising programs for hundreds of clients across the country, including the following Vermont entities: Community College of Vermont, Efficiency Vermont/Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, Northfield Savings Bank, SunCommon, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Vermont Department of Economic Development, Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing, Vermont Electric Cooperative, Vermont Public Radio, and Vermont Tech.

Relevant Projects

- Co-wrote 2016 economic development marketing plan for the State of Vermont, and wrote the corresponding brand messaging platform
- Developed and implemented multiple campaigns for Efficiency Vermont: Continuous Energy Improvement, Efficient Lighting, and Home Energy Performance
- For the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, created “ThisIsVT” awareness campaign, featuring ThisIsVT.com and the citizen managed @ThisIsVT twitter program

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Michael Rushman (team registrant and contact person)

Principal

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Michael has worked as a planner at the local, state and federal levels; as a lawyer in private practice and as in-house counsel for both private and non-profit companies; as a developer of industrial, commercial and residential projects in both private and non-profit settings; and as a university graduate school professor and administrator. He has lived across the U.S.—in central cities, suburbs, and small towns and rural areas, and is currently working on micro-housing projects in the NYC metro area.

Relevant Projects

Planned and implemented complex, mixed-use projects and sports facilities including:

- \$450 million University of Phoenix Stadium (which was named by Sports Illustrated as the best new stadium in the 2000s)
- cbd101, a fully permitted \$1.2 billion, mixed-use project in Arizona
- A town center for Berlin VT

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Janet Van Fleet

Artist + Curator

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Janet has been working as a professional mixed-media artist and curator for over fifteen years. In addition to her fine artwork (primarily assemblage and three-dimensional mixed-media sculptures), she does outdoor and indoor installations. Her work often makes reference to political, environmental, and social issues. She is a founder of Studio Place Arts, a community center for the visual arts in Barre, Vermont, where she has her studio.

Relevant Projects

- Curator for “BIG ART” — July-October, 2016, Berlin Mall, Berlin, VT—enlarged artworks by 16 artists on the outward-facing windows of the mall.
- Curator for The Art of Action—a project of the Vermont Arts Council and Lyman Orton involving commissioning of artists' work that traveled around the state between September, 2009 and July, 2010
- Exhibitor—350.org exhibit in Montpelier, "Unraveling and Turning: A Climate Change Exhibit"

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Robert White

Senior Landscape Architect

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Robert has 30 years of experience working across northern New England on a wide range of large-scale public/institutional/mixed-use landscape architecture and planning projects, and has received numerous state (Vermont and New Hampshire), regional and national design awards. He has a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and is a licensed Landscape Architect in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Relevant Projects

- Part of team which prepared a downtown master plan for the City of Barre, setting an overall urban design framework for the configuration of buildings and parking, streetscape and pedestrian enhancements, and public and private improvements for the downtown district.
- Part of design team that lead the development of redevelopment concepts for the Greenberg Block, a prime downtown block in the historic center of Bennington, Vermont—the redevelopment concepts were prepared as part of a larger areawide plan funded through Vermont's brownfields program
- For the Town of Hartford, VT was project managed the plan for improvements to the streetscape, park, and downtown parking lot in White River Junction, resulting in a more efficient pattern to double the amount of green space at the center of town without losing a single parking space.

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