

YESTERMORROW

DESIGN/BUILD SCHOOL



2018 Annual Report



Think with your hands.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am incredibly honored and pleased to be the newest addition to the Yestermorrow Family. Being born and raised in the Mad River Valley I have observed how this institution has shaped the very fabric of this community and am excited about the next stage of our evolution. There are big shoes to fill with Claire Gear moving on to new adventures and I am eager to support and grow the well- established and vital programming she has nurtured.

This annual report summarizes the impact Yestermorrow has had on the larger public. In 2018, we offered 55 courses and had over 500 students from around the world. In addition to our mainstay of classes and community outreach projects the exceptional staff has embarked on new initiatives including becoming a partner of the Tiny House Festival, producing an original speaker series, yoga classes and even planting a community garden.

This is a special place that fosters unbridled experimentation and helps make dreams come true through practical hands-on experience in the field. The marriage of theory and craft provides an interdisciplinary approach unique to the Yestermorrow experience. I invite you to join in and become part of this extraordinary and inspiring community of dreamers and makers.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Potter Kasic

“THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE THAT FOSTERS UNBRIDLED EXPERIMENTATION AND HELPS MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE THROUGH PRACTICAL HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD. I INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN AND BECOME PART OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY AND INSPIRING COMMUNITY OF DREAMERS AND MAKERS.”



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YESTERMORROW DESIGN/BUILD SCHOOL INSPIRES PEOPLE TO CREATE A BETTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD BY PROVIDING HANDS-ON EDUCATION THAT INTEGRATES DESIGN AND CRAFT AS A CREATIVE, INTERACTIVE PROCESS.



In hands-on classes that explore and engage, we teach the arts of design and building as an integrated process, and provide instruction in fundamental skills. We offer short-form courses, ranging from 2 to 12 days, in Land and Community Planning, Whole Structure Design/Build, Building Systems Design and Building Science, Woodworking and Craft and Tutorials.

“THE INSTRUCTORS WERE ALWAYS THERE WILLING AND READY TO HELP OUT OR TO ANSWER A QUESTION. THEY ARE PLEASANT, VERY COMPETENT, AND HAVE A NICE SENSE OF HUMOR. I NEVER FELT INTIMIDATED, RATHER, FELT ENCOURAGED ALL ALONG.”

-Powertools for Women Student





For students looking to dive deeper into our curriculum, we offer long-term competitive certificate programs in Building Science & Net Zero Design, Tiny House Design/Build, Residential Design and Construction, Natural Building and Woodworking. In 2018 we had nearly 100 applications for 5 certificate programs and 48 students completed a Yestermorrow Certificate.

“I RETURN TO YESTERMORROW BECAUSE OF THE EXCELLENT STAFF, TEACHERS, AND HIGHLY RELEVANT COURSE CONTENT. YESTERMORROW TEACHES YOU TO THINK IN SYSTEMS AND NAVIGATE COMPLEXITY. THAT’S EXACTLY THE SKILL SET I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD.”

-Certificate in Building Science and Net Zero Design Student

Started in 2011, the Design/Build Semester is an ongoing partnership between Yestermorrow and UMass Amherst's Department of Architecture (Amherst, MA). The program takes students through an architectural design process to the substantial completion of a single, high-performance structure.

This full-immersion, credit-bearing semester in green building and design complements architecture, building science, engineering, and environmental design majors and has wide application in liberal arts curricula. This program is also open to students from other institutions of higher education or who are not enrolled in a current degree program.



During his sophomore year at Sterling College (Craftsbury, VT), Eli Barlow (pictured below) enrolled in the Yestermorrow/UMass Semester in Design/Build to learn the value of the built environment to view the world in a new context. During this course, 13 students designed and built a four season cabin for the Vermont Huts Association. A year later, we sat down with him to catch up.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

Yestermorrow acted as a focusing point for my education and I'll be graduating next year. My semester allowed me to explore my interests in building and design. In fact, I created a self-designed major in Ecological Design. Thanks to connections I made in the Yestermorrow network, I spent the past summer working for two different Yestermorrow instructors.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME AT YESTERMORROW?

It was great to be working closely with the same group of students and teachers over the semester. I learned communication skills and it was my first introduction into scholastic study of design. Being part of a student-led design process was both the most gratifying and frustrating part of the class.

HOW HAS YESTERMORROW PREPARED YOU TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE WORLD?

Yestermorrow does a good job of showing you the work that needs to be done in sustainability but also balancing the practicality of the work we do. The core of what I learned is that whatever kind of work people are doing whether its fine furniture, city planning, or home design, you have to keep the social and environmental injustices in mind.

“SENDING A NAIL HOME OR FITTING A BOARD INTO PLACE JUST FEELS GOOD. FEELING THAT AND SEEING IT COULD BE A CAREER FOR ME WAS A HUGE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE.”

-Eli Barlow



An integral requirement of the majority of our hands-on classes is the execution of a design/build project for a client. We offer our time and skills by building a variety of projects in collaboration with local non-profits, schools, and private clients. Yestermorrow projects can be found throughout the Mad River Valley and beyond. In addition to the more visible public examples of our work, we regularly create cabinetry, concrete countertops, timber frames, yurts, renovations, tiny houses, garden sheds, earthen ovens, playhouses, and treehouses.

Through these efforts we expand our impact beyond our students and reach out to our community. Whether we're supporting a school, a non-profit, a first time homeowner or a small business owner, we take pride in tackling these kinds of projects and the value they add to our neighbors.

"SHELburne FARMS HAS NOW ENGAGED YESTERMORROW 9 TIMES OVER MORE THAN 2 DECADES TO BUILD STRUCTURES THAT INCREASE OUR CAPACITY TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT THE FARM. COMPOSTING TOILETS, OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS AND MORE HAVE GREATLY ENHANCED OUR ABILITY TO DELIVER A QUALITY EXPERIENCE TO STUDENTS OF ALL AGES. WE FEEL VERY LUCKY TO BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF YESTERMORROW'S CREATIVE ENERGY!"

-Shelburne Farms, Yestermorrow Client



Garden Shed for North Branch Nature Center (Montpelier, VT)



Stone Archway and Bench (Yestermorrow campus)



Outdoor Classroom for Thatcher Brook Primary School (Waterbury, VT)



Solar Kiln (Yestermorrow campus)



Earthen Oven for Bread and Butter Farm (Shelburne, VT)



Outdoor Classroom for Shelburne Farms (Shelburne, VT)



Garden Shed for LaLu Farm (Warren, VT)



Cabin for Vermont Huts Association (Stowe, VT)



Solar Installation with SunCommon (Waterbury, VT)

NEW IN 2018

- 
 Tiny House Fest Vermont w/ BOCA
- 
 Yesteryoga w/ Salt & Sand Studios
- 
 7 Speaker Series Events
- 
 2,000 sq ft Community Garden
- 
 7 New Courses & 1 New Certificate
- 
 Open Studio Weekend w/ VT Craft Council



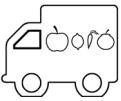
In 2018, Yestermorrow had **526 students** enrolled in **55 courses**, **5 Certificate Programs** and the **Semester Program**.



WHERE WE'RE FROM

Our students and instructors come from all over the world. Over the years, we've had students, instructors and visitors from all 50 states and over 12 countries.

CAMPUS BY THE #'S

- 
 26 Regional Food Vendors Sourcing Local & Organic
- 
 11,200 Meals Served
- 
 3,285 Nights of Lodging
- 
 25,953 KwH Electricity Produced
- 
 3x More Recycled than Landfilled
- 
 100% of Food Waste Composted

Taking a leap of faith, Alex quit his job in an effort to refocus time and attention on his true passions. With limited funds, Alex pursued a course of study in ecological design and building through a variety of education and work experiences including the Yestermorrow Natural Building Certificate. Given his liberated financial state, Alex applied for and was awarded a scholarship for the program.

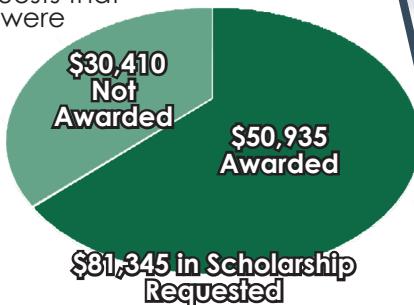
The certificate far exceeded Alex's expectations. Students learned to evaluate, design, and build to a very high performance standard with natural materials. Following the Natural Building Certificate, Alex has been busy working with a client to design an art studio and pond. He plans to continue exploring themes of sustainability by incorporating living natural systems into his designs, including the people and communities around them.

“I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO MY COMMUNITY, HONE A CRAFT WHICH IS VALUED, AND MAKE MY LIVELIHOOD DOING SOMETHING WHICH POSITIVELY INFLUENCES HUMAN HEALTH AND EXISTENCE.”

-Alex Pojedinec

Without the help of donors, Yestermorrow would not be able to offer scholarships to students like Alex who go on to make positive impacts in the world. In 2018, we were able to award only 60% of the requests that we received. Scholarships were funded in part by donors.

Donating to our scholarship fund is easy! Just visit [yestermorrow.org/donate](https://www.yestermorrow.org/donate) to make a tax deductible gift and help someone who might not otherwise be able to attend Yestermorrow.





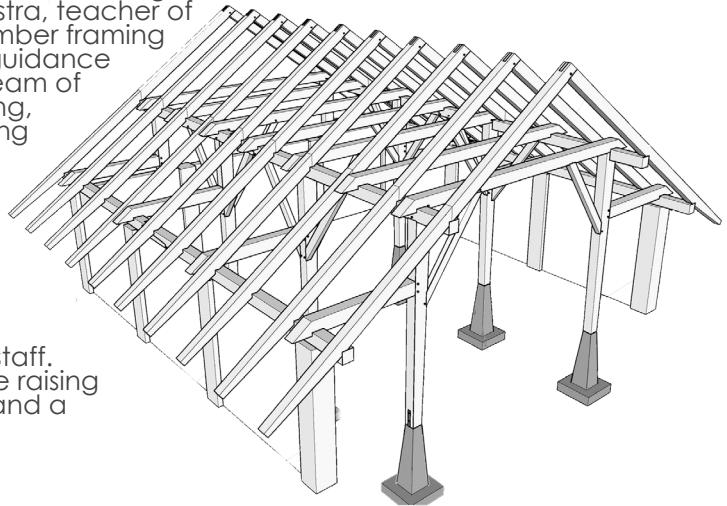
WE ARE SO APPRECIATIVE OF ALL THE HEADS, HEARTS AND HANDS THAT MADE THIS PROJECT A REALITY. THANK YOU!

Yestermorrow started in a small garage in the summer of 1980. After a decade of rented classrooms and mobile shops, the school purchased a permanent campus. These 33 acres and existing structures, formerly home of the Alpen Inn, posed a world of possibility and challenge. As part of the ensuing renovations, an existing 3-story structure (pictured left, top row) was torn down leaving only "the arches". Over the last 28 years, the campus has evolved as a living and breathing example of the design/build process.

We've always been creative in our use of space here and that has often meant expanding our classrooms outdoors. The open air arches have frequently served as an outdoor classroom, but without a roof our students and instructors have long been exposed to the (frequently fickle) elements.

2018 was an exciting year as we embarked on the ambitious design/build project of transforming the arches into a permanent outdoor classroom. Timberframing instructors Josh Jackson and Skip Dewhirst designed a timber frame. The timbers were milled by a team led by Nick Zandstra, teacher of our Sustainable Forestry courses. Timber framing students cut the frame under the guidance of our instructors. Our dedicated team of Design/Build interns assisted in milling, demolition, earthwork and preparing the concrete foundation. To round out the redesign of the space, Thea Alvin led the Art of Stone course in building a new stone wall and archway (see photo pg. 8).

On May 12, 2018 the frame was raised with the help of students, interns, instructors, volunteers and staff. In typical Yestermorrow fashion, the raising was followed by a delicious meal and a roaring bonfire.



“THE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF CUTTING AND RAISING A FRAME IS INVALUABLE. BEING ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND PICK THE BRAINS OF EXPERIENCED AND PROFESSIONAL TIMBER FRAMERS IS SOMETHING THAT A BOOK CANNOT PROVIDE.”

-Timberframing Student

Yestermorrow is primarily funded through program costs and 84% of our total expenses go towards programming. However, we rely on donors to help us close the gap in income and expenses. Thank you to our donors for helping us close the 13% gap. With \$149,942 in funds raised, we were able to teach over 500 students this year the skills they need to discover or further their careers and be champions for sustainability. Our 2017 endowment was \$319,817.

In addition to monetary and in-kind donations, Yestermorrow accepts donations from donor advised funds, family foundations, and donations of property, stock, and volunteer time. For a list of current donors and to donate online please visit yestermorrow.org/donate. You can also use the enclosed envelope to send a gift in the mail. All gifts are tax deductible.

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 1,185,904



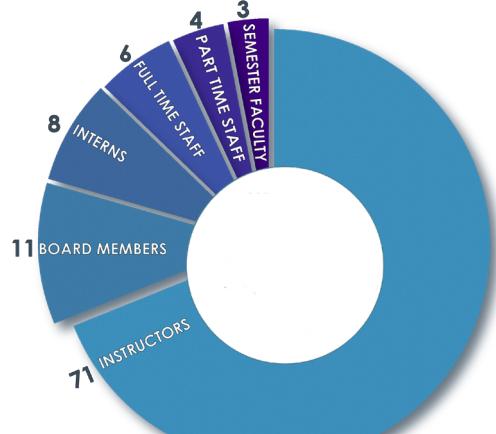
- Program Income: \$ 1,035,962
- Fundraising: \$ 149,942

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 1,185,340



- Program Expenses: \$ 1,001,140
- Administration: \$ 124,200
- Fundraising: \$ 60,000

THE YESTERMORROW TEAM



Over 100 architects, builders & makers working together to uphold the mission of the school.



Kathy Myer has worn many hats at Yestermorrow and has been a constant at the school since our earliest days. After graduating from architecture school at Cornell, Kathy decided to pursue a career as a design builder. She was drawn to Yestermorrow's active teaching style. As she puts it, "Yestermorrow is a sanctuary of hands-on learning in the middle of a desert, and a place where the learning is real and authentic."

Since starting as an apprentice in 1981, Kathy has played nearly every role in the school. What Kathy loved about the school all those years ago holds true today, "Yestermorrow creates a very supportive, open, trusting, and accepting environment which I believe is so important to learning."

As a lifelong champion of sustainable building, Kathy believes that in a sea of negative environmental news and data, "donating annually to Yestermorrow is something I can do to have a direct positive impact. From classes that teach design build/skills to help combat climate woes, to the solar panels and the locally sourced food in the kitchen, Yestermorrow doesn't just talk the talk, they walk the walk."

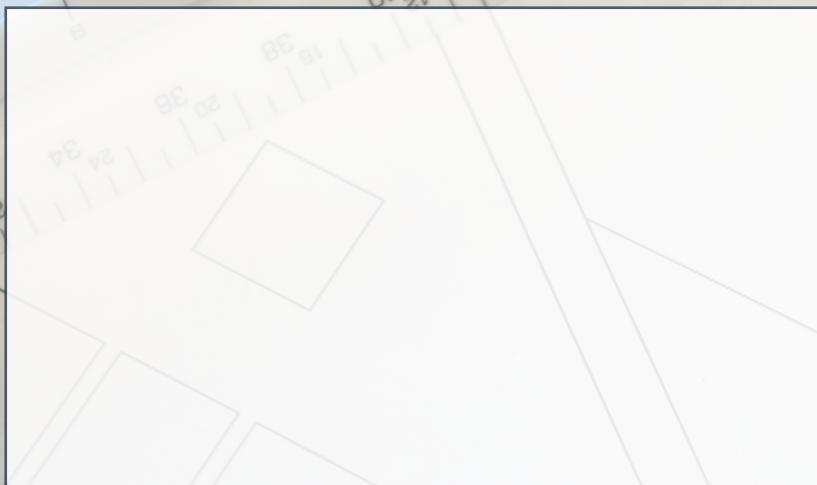
When people ask Kathy what she's done with her life, she says "I'm proud to tell them I am involved in this design build school in Vermont called Yestermorrow."

"IN A SEA OF NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS AND DATA, DONATING ANNUALLY TO YESTERMORROW IS SOMETHING I CAN DO HAVE A DIRECT POSITIVE IMPACT."

-Kathy Meyer



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