

“Reinventing Community Through Adaptive Use”

Description: The presentation uses completed projects in Detroit, Lansing, Jackson and Ypsilanti to illustrate the potential for the adaptive use of historic buildings to transform seemingly hopeless buildings into valuable community assets. In Detroit, examples range from small neighborhood retail buildings through abandoned offices to downtown office towers, each which found a new use. In Jackson and Ypsilanti, examples illustrate the potential to develop housing in large publicly owned buildings that are no longer needed for their original uses. In Lansing, examples include an obsolete power station and long vacant downtown department store that were creatively repositioned through adaptive use. The presentation considers not only the success of the architecture, but also the process including how architects envision the often hidden potential of obsolete buildings and how they assist the community and developers in realizing that potential. The presentation is a Power Point presented by Lis Knibbe. Lis is an architect with over 35 years’ experience adapting historic buildings for new uses. She has worked with private and public developers to reposition small and large buildings creating housing, a hotel, offices and schools in formerly obsolete buildings. She is an expert in the use of historic preservation tax credits to help finance these projects. Her projects have won numerous state and national awards for historic preservation, and awards from the AIA Detroit and AIA Michigan.

Speaker’s name: Elisabeth Knibbe, FAIA

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Time required: 45 minutes

AV equipment required: Screen & projector

**Paid honorariums to Speakers are not expected from requesting group. Speakers, at their discretion, may donate their honorariums to AIA Michigan. Mileage reimbursement to Speaker are not expected from requesting group.*