

# REFLECTING ON: ARCHITECTURE, PRESERVATION & THE GREATER KALAMAZOO BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**June 16, 2005**

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Lecture by Blair Kamin,  
*Pulitzer Prize winner &  
Chicago Tribune Architecture Critic*

## **First United Methodist Church**

212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo  
*NW corner of Bronson Park*

In response to National Historic Preservation Month, several Kalamazoo County organizations will collaborate on a program to heighten public awareness of architecture, preservation and greater Kalamazoo's built environment.

Pulitzer Prize winner and Chicago Tribune Architecture Critic Blair Kamin will share his knowledge on the importance of good design, and how architecture, old and new, affects our lives. Good architecture is not only in coffee table books and big cities, but in all communities across the country. And while architectural opinions differ, there is inherent value in certain buildings' and landscapes' significance as a result of their history, construction, evolution and societal impacts.

Following Kamin's lecture, The American Institute of Architects Southwest Chapter will debut its new "Guide to Modern Architecture of Greater Kalamazoo" brochure. In addition, Kamin will be available to sign copies of his latest book: *Why Architecture Matters*, which will be for sale. *Kalamazoo: Lost & Found* will also be available, and its authors, Pamela Hall O'Connor and Lynn Smith Houghton present. Copies of *Where the Trails Crossed*, published by the Portage Historic District Commission will be available for purchase as well.

 **ATA Southwest Michigan** **Old House**  
**MICHIGAN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION** **Network**

**Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission**

*Portage*  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
COMMISSION

KALAMAZOO COUNTY  
PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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## **WE ARE WHAT WE BUILD: GETTING A GRIP ON THE NERVOUS NINETIES**

This slide lecture, by the Chicago Tribune's Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic, Blair Kamin, spans the period marked by two seminal events--the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001. Focusing on architecture, urbanism and historic preservation in Chicago, the first city of American architecture, Kamin analyses a wide range of buildings, from suburban "tear-down" houses to the controversial renovation of Soldier Field. He places these examples in a broad cultural and political context which compares the urban policies of Chicago's current mayor, Richard M. Daley, with those of his legendary father, Richard J. Daley. Called one of "the major architecture critics of our time" by the New Yorker's Paul Goldberger, Kamin demonstrates in this talk how architecture both reflects and affects the way that we live.

The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session.

Mr. Kamin is a graduate of 1979 Amherst College with a Masters of Environmental Design from Yale University - 1984. He is the recipient of over 25 professional awards including the Pulitzer Prize - 1999, Chicagoan of the Year - 2001, and part of the *Architectural Record* team to win the *National Magazine Award* for general excellence - 2003. He has given many lectures throughout the years on topics such as "The Influence of Politics on Architecture and City Planning" and "Squandering Heritage and Parks." He promotes the examination of a wide range of issues and controversy surrounding architecture, to encourage public debate, and to influence architecture's outcome.

