

# Capturing Architecture

## Past and Present

BY KATE HANSON



THIS FALL, STUDENTS FROM FRAMINGHAM AND HOLLISTON HIGH SCHOOLS ARE EMBARKING IN A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT THE SCHOOLS HAVE NEVER TRIED BEFORE. The innovative project, "Capturing Architecture Past and Present" is through a \$30,000 Model Technology Integration Grant awarded by the MA department of Education. These students are

working along side of photographer in residence, Lynne Damianos, learning the ins and outs of digital photography, and photographing architecture in their communities.

The idea became a reality through the efforts of Kathy Dooley, the Grant Administer for Holliston who met Damianos in 2003. "I had been thinking about the idea of photographing architecture, and when I spoke to Lynne about it she was very enthusiastic. We began to put the project together and seek out funding, which led us to the Department of Education Grant," said Dooley.

Dooley became fascinated with the idea of photographing architecture after recent renovations in Holliston added unique features to some of the well-known buildings, such as the fire station and Town Hall. Since the Department of Education grant favors town partnership, she thought it would be beneficial to capture the essence of Holliston, and then collaborate with the "flavor" of Damianos' hometown of Framingham to create an authentic piece of work. Dooley knew right away that Damianos was the right woman to work with: "When I saw Lynne's work at the studio, I thought boy, it would be great to have these images captured by someone who had such an eye for it," said Dooley.

Damianos has had a passion for photography since high school, and has been pursuing her dream for over 25 years. As owner of *Damianos Photography*, providing business-related photography, as well as teaching architectural photography workshops for college students, she enjoys different ways of offering her expertise. She is honored by the opportunity to teach at a high school level: "I think working with the high school kids is great because using digital gives you instant feedback, and the students will be able to grasp what's going on right away," said Damianos. Her goal is to integrate as much tech-

nology as possible from her own background, while exploring different territories artistically. Damianos hopes that the students will appreciate how fruitful the project really is, since they will not only learn about architecture in terms of style, but by combining that with vision. "That's what makes the best photograph" said Damianos. The responsibilities of the stu-

dents include: shooting the picture; printing from the computers at school; adjusting color; altering images; and making their own exhibition print. They will also be researching the buildings and their designers, discovering the history of usage, and writing supporting text for each photo. The photos will be displayed in an exhibition in January 2005. Eventually, the photos will be bound into a book, and 15 copies will be distributed to each town. It is not yet decided if these books will be available for purchase.

A significant aspect of the completed project is to serve as a model for other communities. The information behind the experience will be passed on through professional development workshops in the summer of 2005 for other schools to use as a starting point, and to project longevity. "Teachers are always looking for ways to integrate technology into their curriculum," said Dooley. "The future professional development will offer teachers a chance to explore integrating digital photography-photo essays into their classes."

Both Damianos and Dooley agree that the ultimate benefit of the project is that it will be a new and positive experience for students; having the opportunity to work with an artist in residence, while collaborating with students from another town. Damianos also feels that the ability to yield results of exhibition quality is an exceptional opportunity. "For me the most exciting thing is being on the forefront of integrating technology, history, and architecture, and then combining my love for what I do with the students."

More information about "Capturing Architecture Past and Present," can be found on the Holliston High School web page: [www.holliston.k12.ma.us](http://www.holliston.k12.ma.us).

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