



Joan Vorderbruggen

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professional mission

Through active engagement in a myriad of complementary disciplines, I am dedicated towards assisting others in experiencing a deeper sense of well-being, beauty and harmony that can be found where nature, human and spirit are intertwined.

current callings

STUDIO BIRKE

The Birch tree (*Birke* in German), is rich in ancient, multicultural symbolism including: creativity, wisdom, adaptability, strength and resiliency, representing new life or new ideas. Taking cues from the birch tree, Studio Birke is a *Renaissance Business*, supporting multiple expressive and nurturing personal passions of mine, including the following:

DESIGNER : treehOm

2003 - present

www.treehom.com

(formerly known as Duet Design)

- As the architecture / interior design / landscape design segment of Studio Birke, treehOm offers services that help people root themselves more intentionally and soulfully to where they live. A thoughtful design process, as well as the designs themselves connect the inhabitants and the land that they inhabit to support the well-being of both.
- Other services include writing and presenting pertaining to: designing for well-being, designing for supportive human/nature connections, and tapping into our creativity
- Notable projects: Glendalough State Park's Trail Center conceptual design (construction beginning 2019); "Hatchery Row" business district visioning study for the City of Battle Lake (sponsored by a Blandin Leadership Grant for Rural Minnesota)
- I am a Licensed Architect in the State of Minnesota since 2006

FOREST THERAPY GUIDE : bircheart shinrin-yoku

2017 - present

www.bircheart.com

- Guide Shinrin-yoku (Forest Bathing) walks, events and experiences that focus on slowing down and being present in nature, for a greater sense of well-being.
- Partner with Minnesota State Parks and other organizations
- Authored a journal-style book - *Wild Calm: Finding Mindfulness in Forest Bathing* - to be released June 2019. Castle Point Books for St. Martin's Press, NY, NY
- Interviewed for *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine, March/April 2019 issue
- Co-created and co-lead the "Year of Play" nature and art event, funded by Springboard for the Arts, PartnerSHIP 4 Health, Dept. of Public Perks, and National Endowment for the Arts
- Certified* Forest Therapy Guide (*Association of Nature and Forest Therapy)
- Certified* in Wilderness First Aid (*NOLS Wilderness First Aid)

ARTIST : ArtWaterAir

my entire life

www.artwaterair.com

- Photography, drawing and illustration, making and craft, earth art and earth sculpture, painting... Through creating, I learn about the world around me at a more intimate level; I engage playfully and become more present. I hope to share those experiences with others.

previous pursuits

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of ARCHITECTURE 2009 - 2016

North Dakota State University, Fargo, Dept. of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

- With teaching as my primary focus, I taught all levels of architecture and landscape architecture students. I designed curriculum and projects, coordinated the second year architecture studio, chaired various committees, and received high student and departmental scores and reviews for my teaching, enthusiasm and passion.
- Received the "Teacher of the Year Award" in 2011, College of Engineering and Architecture
- Received the "Apple Polisher Award" for teaching excellence, NDSU Bison Ambassadors, 2010
- Created the annual "Architecture for the Birds" competition for beginning design students: a collaborative effort with several non-profit organizations that still takes place each spring.
- Collaborated with a landscape architecture faculty member and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fargo, ND to assist students in preliminary designs for healing gardens on the VA hospital grounds. (Constructed in 2016).
- Served as faculty advisor to the student organization, Freedom by Design (FBD), a student design/build organization that assists physically challenged community members to live with more freedom and dignity. (Recognized nationally three times during my involvement)
- Engaged in research and creative endeavors to assist in my own understanding of the symbiotic human-nature connections that lead to healing and well-being of people and planet.

ADJUNT PROFESSOR / LECTURER 2008/2009, 2005/2007

North Dakota State University, Fargo, Dept. of Architecture & Landscape Architecture

GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOW 2007/2008

University of Oregon, Eugene, Department of Architecture & Allied Arts

COMMUNITY EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR 2004 - 2006

Duluth, MN and Moorhead, MN

- Taught courses on living more simply, and creating a healthy house/healthy environment

SENIOR DESIGNER / INTERN ARCHITECT 1999 - 2003

LHB Engineers and Architects, Duluth, MN

- Led and/or assisted in architectural design projects, site feasibility studies, design of walkable neighborhoods, sustainable design related research and implementation.
- Served as one of the firm's lead architectural illustrators for client presentations, visioning studies, promotional uses
- Co-captain of the LHB "Green Team" focusing on employee environmental education
- Contributed to in-house, local, and state-wide publications based on sustainable design, environmental issues, etc., through writing, graphic design, illustrations, and editing.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT DESIGNER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ INTERIOR DESIGNER 1983-1994

Various design positions held with employers in the Fargo, ND area, while simultaneously self-employed as a graphic designer and illustrator

education

MASTER of ARCHITECTURE Post professional research degree 2009
University of Oregon College of Architecture & Allied Arts, Eugene, OR

BACHELOR of ARCHITECTURE (Professional degree) and
BACHELOR of SCIENCE in ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN 1999

North Dakota State University, College of Architecture & Landscape Architecture. Fargo

- Recipient: AIA Henry Adams Certificate for architectural scholastic excellence, 1999
- Finalist: Peter McKenzie Award (top Bachelor of Architecture thesis award), 1999
- Citation: Leading Edge National Design Competition (for sustainable community), 1998
- First Place winner: ND Masonry Student Competition, 1996
- Finalist: BWBR Architectural student competition award, 1996
- Recipient: Tau Sigma Delta Award (architecture student showing the most promise), 1995

BACHELOR of SCIENCE in HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION with an
ASSOCIATE DEGREE in INTERIOR DESIGN TECHNOLOGY 1984

North Dakota State University, College of Human Development & Education.

- First place winner: American Home Economics Assoc. national logo design competition, 1983

STUDIES towards a **BACHELOR of ART DEGREE** 1979 - 1980
Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN

activities, volunteering, memberships

ASSOCIATION of NATURE and FOREST THERAPY : Member 2016 - present

GLENDALOUGH STATE PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD : Member 2016 - present
Annual Walk for Glendalough Committee Member

PRAIRIE ROOTS FOOD COOP : Founding / Current Member 2012 - present
• Assisted with preliminary site location and design for new store

LONGSPUR PRAIRIE FUND : Board of Directors 2014 - 2016

THE FARGO PROJECT - WORLD GARDEN COMMONS : Artist / Designer 2012 - 2016
• Conceptual design for overlook platforms.
• Funding from National Endowment for the Arts and Art Place America Grant

AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ARCHITECTS (AIA) Northern Minnesota Chapter
Member, 1999 - 2015
Board of Directors, 2000 - 2003
Director, Young Architects Forum, 2000 - 2002 (honored for exceptional service to the AIA)