

## History of IBI Group – Gruzen Samton

In the beginning...

### 1932

◀ Illustration By A Young Barney Gruzen For A Competition



### 1936

The Beginning: Kelly & Gruzen

Barney continued his studies of the orthodox tradition at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, but there were stronger influences pushing him towards the modern movement. He was stunned to see the attractive public buildings in the Netherlands, Germany, and Scandinavia. Public housing, designed in the modern style, was perhaps the greatest influence of his visit.



(Left) Barney Gruzen monitoring action Europe in 1936. (Top) Barney and Ubel (second on the left) Gruzen sailing to Europe in 1936 where Barney was to study architecture on the prestigious Dutch Travelling Fellowship. (Above) The Gruzen brothers, Barney and Ubel, examine a model of low-scale housing in their Jersey City office. (Right) Frequently on radio or T.V., Barney Gruzen explains a new high school to the moderator.

much attention to such instruction when there is only one bathroom in the entire tenement building in which he lives," he said. He spoke of the new public housing projects in Europe and prodded Americans to match their quality.

There was also a need for comprehensive, long-range planning in the cities as he saw it. As paraphrased by a local paper of the time, Gruzen said: We must discard the old idea of speculative building, which crowds everything possible on the plot of land. This must be changed. The buildings should be planned in groups, with playgrounds for children and with tunnels under traffic-congested streets—all of which must be done at a price the poor man can afford to pay—possibly four to six dollars a room per month.

Around this time, he met another architect who would play an important role in his own career. Colonel Hugh A. Kelly had begun his own architectural and engineering firm in 1918 in Jersey City after service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Kelly became head of a group of citizens who wanted to buy land in a run-down area of the city and build new housing. Kelly chose Gruzen as the architect for the plan. The group approached various agencies, including the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but was unable to find funds for the project, largely because of the high cost of the land. Barney would have to wait until the end of the thirties to get a crack at designing public housing, but he had impressed the Jersey City community with his knowledge of the subject and had made a good friend in Colonel Kelly.



In 1936 L'Ecole des Beaux Arts trained Barnett Sumner Gruzen and US Army Corp of Engineers trained Colonel Hugh A. Kelly joined efforts and established the office of Kelly & Gruzen in Jersey City, NJ and focused their work on restaurants, retail, and government projects. During wartime, the firm designed Army and Army Air Corp base structures, and Navy engine-testing facilities.

Firm's New Jersey & NYC Growth



In the fifties, the firm's NYC office expanded to a location on 14th Street while the New Jersey office relocated to Newark. Several Design awards were given to Kelly & Gruzen for precedent-setting projects for New Jersey and New York public school systems. Master Planning and urban renewal projects were

combined and Colonel Kelly retired from the firm. Barnett Gruzen continued as sole owner with architects such as George Shimamoto, Lloyd Fleischman, and Admiral John Manning.

1937

In The Architectural Record



Architectural Record is an American monthly magazine that is dedicated to architecture and interior design. Throughout its 125 years in print, Architectural Record has fostered readership among architecture, engineering, and design professionals by featuring articles that showcase noteworthy architectural works throughout the global landscape.

### 1950



Office Grand Opening



(Left to Right) Max Drill, Sam Klein, Barney Gruzen, Koel Gross at office opening in 1950.

### 1953

Meeting Albert Einstein



"Dr. Einstein congratulating Mr. Gruzen on the design of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Princeton, NJ on March 15th 1953."

1962

Kelly And Gruzen In 1962

The American Jewish TIMES-OUTLOOK 61



**ARCHITECTS' CONTRACT SIGNED FOR NATION'S FIRST JEWISH-SPONSORED MEDICAL COLLEGE**—Shown putting the seal on the contract are, left to right, Dr. Samuel Hirshe, President, Yeshiva University (standing); Mayor Vincent B. Impellitteri; the Hon. Samuel Levy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Yeshiva University; and R. Summer Gruzen, of the architectural firm of Kelly & Gruzen (standing).

are the proud parents of a lovely baby girl, Pamela Beth Nativ, showed us pictures of the new baby.

Thrilled to the professional performances of magic tricks by Al Scheckwitz, who held the guests enraptured.

Everybody forgot their calories when the hostess announced the cats. A most delicious and lavish buffet dinner was served from the dining room table, where mountains of fried chicken, delicatessen and everything grand tempted the most discriminating palate.

All over town hearts that loved her were saddened by the shocking report of the death of Mrs. M. Marks, one of the most beloved and faithful figures in our Jewish community. Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt sorrow is extended to the family.

Our sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Gus Berman on the passing of her mother.

**COORDINATING U. S. A. BOND ACTIVITIES IN U. S.**

**JERUSALEM—WNSI**—The U. S. A. Bond drive in the United States was taken up at a Cabinet meeting here this week, during which plans were discussed designed to effect coordination between the United Jewish Appeal and the Israel Bond drive in the United States.

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1964

http://gruzensamton.com/history/

5/22/2018

Spanish Pavilion, 1964 World's Fair



Undoubtedly the most widely acclaimed building at the Fair, the Pavilion of Spain created a unique combination of architecture and art in unity, each supporting and emphasizing the other. Produced in less than a year, it involved the use of extensive Spanish made materials requiring careful integration into the American built structure. the building consisted of several elements creating interior and exterior spaces sheltered by the buildings enclosing walls of pre-cast concrete panels supported on a steel frame structure. Valuable Spanish art treasures and two restaurants featuring Spanish cuisine were housed in the Pavilion.

**1967**

The Era Of Expansion & Specialization



In 1967, Kelly & Gruzen reorganized itself to become Gruzen & Partners, which reflected the addition of new designers, including Jordan Gruzen and Peter Samton. It also expanded with a Washington, DC, office and began specializing in new town

planning, facilities for the elderly and judicial architecture. These areas of expertise helped Gruzen & Partners garner nationwide recognition.

### 1970

Iconic Projects Of The 1970's



In the 1970's, Gruzen & Partners realized major developments for public and private clients. Located near the Brooklyn Bridge the firm designed the iconic New York City Police Headquarters, Chatham Green Apartments, Chatham Towers, The

Galaxy, New Jersey's tallest residential complex at the time. The Solow Residential Tower was New York City's first high rise residential tower designed with a glass façade; it featured a smoky gray curtain wall.

### 1990

Iconic Projects Of The 1990's



During the 1990s Michael Kazan and Scott Keller became partners with Jordan Gruzen and Peter Samton. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commissioned the firm to design its new Headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue. In

conjunction with the Croxton Collaborative, Gruzen Samton wrote the EPA's sustainable design guidelines.

2000

The Millennium



During the early 2000's a new generation of partners joined the firm, including Susan Wright. The new partners brought an expanded range of expertise to the firm with the design of educational facilities, residential projects, cultural institutions and transportation complexes. The firm completed award winning projects that include among others the Staten Island Zoo Reptile Wing, El Museo del Barrio, Port Imperial Ferry Terminal, the Jersey City Public Schools Frank R. Conwell Campus and the 100 Jay Street Condominiums.

2009



Joining Forces: IBI Group – Gruzen Samton Architects, Engineers, & Landscape Architects



In 2009 Gruzen Samton entered into a strategic partnership with global A/E firm IBI Group based in Toronto. This partnership has enabled our New York City office to be involved in projects all across the globe such as the subsurface train stations for the Red Line in Tel Aviv Israel and the Crosstown Eglinton Light Rail Stations in design now in Toronto, Canada.

## 2015

The Move From The Meatpacking District To Wall Street



In 2015, we moved our office from the Meatpacking District to the heart of Wall Street.

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## AMAZING LEADERSHIP

IBI Group globally has grown to a staff of approximately 2,400 employees and 63 locations around the globe and annually conducts hundreds of projects over many disciplines. The IBI Group office in New York City has an architectural and design staff of approximately 45 professionals that provide architectural services for dozens of local and global projects annually.

IBI Group is an ISO 9001:2000 registered company and has firmly established quality management mechanisms built into the daily regimen for all technical discipline deliverables and management processes. IBI Group Inc., the parent company of IBI Group, is a publicly traded company (tsx: IBG).

## MEET OUR TEAM



Bryan McKeown | AIA, LEED AP



Jennifer Ujimoto | AIA, OAA, LEED

AP, GRP



Mar Granados | AIA



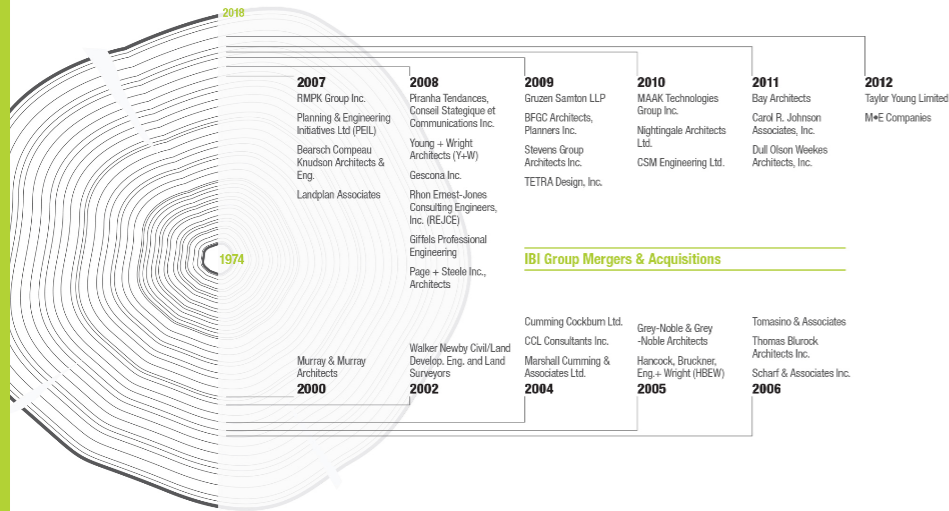
Neil Myers | AIA



Robert Lucas | AIA



Susan Wright | AIA, LEED AP,  
NCARB



## Our History

IBI Group was founded in 1974 by nine partners to provide professional services in planning and design for urban development and transportation. Even then, we maintained a relentless focus on integrating all of our different disciplines to provide more holistic solutions to our clients.

From the initial two offices in Toronto and Vancouver, IBI Group has grown to over 60 offices in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, with more than 2,500 employees.

In 2000, we experienced strategic growth through acquisitions and in 2004, the firm went public with the formation of the IBI Income Fund. The Fund was converted to a corporation – IBI Group Inc. – at the end of 2010.

## Global reach. Local focus.

IBI has over 60 offices in major urban centres across the globe, all of which are tightly connected to promote international collaboration and intelligence sharing.

