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President's Message

As we approach our 150 year anniversary I have some personal reflections on our profession. I have the utmost respect for all of you who have both enjoyed the fruits of being an architect and endured the ever increasing challenges we face to successfully execute a project today. I am very impressed with the quality of design that I have seen come out of the offices of Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Firms and I love to see the vast array of projects and creative solutions that are displayed at the Design Awards Ceremony during Presidents Night. All architects are winners, in my opinion, just by the successful completion of any project. This improves the built environment and upgrades the profession as a whole. I am grateful to all of you who endure the "slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune" that we all face as architects today.

On that note I would like to make a personal plea and or challenge for all of you. My belief as I have stated before is that we should try to "make the pie bigger for everyone" instead of trying to get a "bigger piece of the pie". Let us all work together for the promotion of the profession and show our communities what architects can do to improve our built environment. The upcoming 150 Year Celebration is a great opportunity for this to happen throughout our chapter. I know that the creative power of a room full of architects is unstoppable and I am confident that if we work toward a common goal we can move mountains! Please bring your thoughts and ideas to our next few chapter meetings so we can begin to plan our implementation of them into next year's year long celebration.

To all the past Presidents and future Presidents and all the Allied and Associate Members, I am honored to be a part of such an esteemed group and I thank you all for all your efforts to this point. Now lets work together to show everyone what we can accomplish as a team.

Ron Shaffer, AIA
Chapter President



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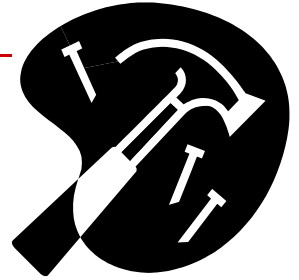
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Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: The AIA's Role in Recovery and Rebuilding by Gene Berg, AIA, 2006 President-Elect



In September 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Louisiana Gulf Coast, destroying an estimated 275,000 housing units, nearly 10 times as many units destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. The American Institute of Architects has become an active player in the effort to support the redesign and rebuilding of the disaster stricken areas.

Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference

The Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference, held on November 10 through 12, 2005, forged the starting point for the planning and rebuilding of damaged parts of the state that fell victim to the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The American Institute of Architects, in collaboration with the American Planning Association, presented the conference, which was co-sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the nonprofit group America Speaks, and several other benefactors. More than 650 citizens, community leaders, architects, planners, engineers, business people, and public officials gathered in New Orleans for this event.

The participants shared their dreams and visions of recovery and rebuilding, and developed core policy goals and planning principles. These goals included rebuilding and creating new infrastructure, promoting economic growth, providing public services, pursuing governmental policy, and planning and designing sustainable communities. Architects donated expertise in guiding reconstruction planning that advanced livability by preserving architectural history and the best of the past while promoting new sustainable workable mixed-use, mixed-income communities that foster diversity and social equity.

“More than 650 citizens, community leaders, architects, planners, engineers, business people, and public officials in New Orleans for this event.”

Grassroots Advocacy Day

On Advocacy Day at Grassroots 2006, the American Institute of Architects members converged upon Capitol Hill to lobby their congress-people to support House Bill H.R. 4100, and the companion Senate bill, S2172. This legislation would establish the Louisiana Recovery Corporation whose primary mission would be the economic stabilization and redevelopment of areas within Louisiana that were devastated or significantly distressed by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. This act, if adequately funded, would create the Louisiana Recovery Corporation, which would purchase the devastated properties of willing sellers and relieve them of their mortgage obligations of up to \$500,000, and transfer title to the LRC. The LRC would make necessary infrastructure repairs before selling the property to private developers through a competitive bidding process. The proceeds of these sales would pay back the U.S. treasury bonds necessary to implement the program. The architects' lobbying and political action committees proved to be a success, with several senators and representatives either pledging support or co-sponsoring the bills.

Preparation for Future Disasters: Conference Seminars and Best Practices Sessions

AIA 2006 Grassroots, through seminars and best practices sessions, furnished the forum for component chapter leaders to convene and share experiences, challenges, successes, and failures to build upon each others experiences. Several of the seminars and best practices sessions focused on emergency preparedness for future disasters and the volunteer roles and opportunities in which architects can give back to their communities in the event of a disaster.

The Disaster Preparedness and Recovery seminar galvanized the necessity for volunteers, through the National Incentive Management System (NIMS) to research their state or local jurisdictional plan so the volunteers can obtain training before the disaster occurs. In the event of a disaster, search and rescue occurs within the first 24 hours, followed by mobilization of the National Guard for security, distribution of food and ice, provision of temporary housing, and finally damage assessments. Innovation in the provision of temporary housing and building damage assessments comprise the most beneficial employment of an architect's expertise and talents in response to a disaster.



Nonetheless, architects must coordinate with local building departments and be trained in preparing damage assessments prior to the time when the disaster occurs. Disaster assessment teams are typically comprised of a local building official, a state-registered architect, and possibly an out-of-state architect. Even in the event of a disaster, out-of-state architects must work under the auspices of an architect registered in the state where they are practicing damage assessments. Architects can provide the scheduling knowledge to determine how much time will be required to reconstruct critical infrastructure, schools, and community resources, allowing local jurisdictions to prioritize reconstruction. Nonetheless, each state should establish a Good Samaritan Law to protect volunteer architects from liability.

“Walk a Day in my Shoes”

Contact Sylvia Deye,
AIA if this is something
that interests you.

In conclusion, the American Institute of Architects' involvement in the Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference and the AIA Grassroots Lobbying in support of the Louisiana Recovery Act exemplify the efforts of the AIA on a national level to relieve the suffering of the displaced citizens and residents of the Katrina and Rita hurricane disasters. The convention seminars and best practices sessions provided the tools necessary to effectively respond to future disasters which might occur in any geographical region. Have you considered your role in disaster relief efforts which might be required in your area?

Quotes from AIA Grassroots 2006 and words of the day

I will need to galvanize due to your caustic surface”

When speaking to the media

“Tis better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt” - Abraham Lincoln

“Looking at yourself through the media is like looking at one of those ripple mirrors in an amusement park.”
- Edmond Muskie

Do not follow with a negative with 'but', rather use 'and' for a positive response.

Engaging – connecting

Components – your team

Galvanizing – solidifying a relationship

Services for Members - AIA Pennsylvania's Licensure Committee

As the design and construction industry has changed over time the certain traditions of the practice of architecture have eroded. Today's environment is challenging, competitive, and evolving. In this market practices find it difficult enough to compete with firms having similar credentials and experience and offering quality professional services. The field of competitors for design services has broadened and includes sources that do not meet the requirements established for architectural practices.

The profession of architecture places responsibility and liability on the individuals and firms that are licensed to practice architecture. Attaining and maintaining the right to practice requires special dedication and qualifications. These should not be taken lightly. The commonwealth restricts the right to practice for specific reasons and regulates the licensing process to protect the interests and safety of it's citizens.

Among the reasons AIA Pennsylvania established the Licensure Committee is to assist members in reducing the unauthorized practice of Architecture. This committee has been created to offer AIA members a service in researching complaints and suspicions of design services being offered by entities that are not authorized or qualified to perform them. The duties of this committee include the following;

To provide a resource that maintains a registry of all inquiries and complaints relative the unauthorized practice of architecture that have been received by AIA Pennsylvania.

To review and refer, as appropriate, to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, Bureau of Occupational and Professional Affairs complaints received by AIA Pennsylvania against any person or entity not authorized to practice architecture, who is alleged to e performing acts or services constituting or believed to constitute the practice of architecture.

When it is believed by the Committee that any person or entity is engaged in the unauthorized practice of architecture, the Committee may recommend that the Board of Directors take appropriate informal action as the circumstances may dictate, including, but not limited to, oral or written requests hat any such person or entity cease and desist from performing such acts or services.

The Committee may recommend to the Board of Directors to institute and prosecute to final conclusion, proceedings at law or in equity, as may e necessary or advisable to prohibit and prevent the unauthorized practice of architecture.

Depending on the nature of the complaint and the information available, the process may include the filing of a formal complaint by AIA PA and assisting the prosecuting attorney for the licensure board. AIA Pennsylvania's Committee will review the information provided by members to determine the appropriate level of action. Members who have a complaint they wish to have considered are encouraged to provide specific information regarding the entity and the nature of the service being offered. Copies of documents or advertisements are important supporting information that will help define the nature of the complaint and type of action to be instituted.

AIA Pennsylvania's Board of Directors has determined that the services of the Licensure Committee is a needed service to address the concern of its members for design services being performed by unqualified entities. Members are encouraged to call AIA Pennsylvania with questions regarding this service and to report instances where they believe the unauthorized practice of architecture is being performed.



Opening door for you

Get ready it is just around the corner and will change the face of AIA forever. The main focus of AIA150 is community involvement and education. There is a lot of planning and organizing to do before the following year is upon us. The AIA 150 will be celebrated the entire year Nationally and Internationally during Architects week. Here is just a hint of new local programs and events that will be incorporated by AIA PA Eastern Chapter.



In 2007, the members of the American Institute of Architects will mark the AIA's 150 years of service to the profession and the nation by working with their communities to create a better future by design.

1. Design Charette
2. Billboard Competition
3. Art on the Avenue
4. Hard Hat walks
5. Coloring book by Architects for the younger and future architects.
6. Quarterly Reception for the Emerging Professional - a networking opportunity.
7. Homes for our Troops / Freedom by Design

If any of these ideas are something of interest please contact AIA PA Eastern Chapter and get involved we need our support to make 2007 and beyond a success.

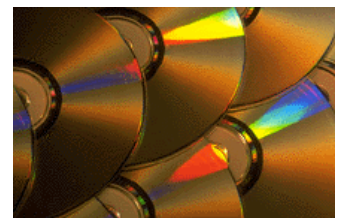
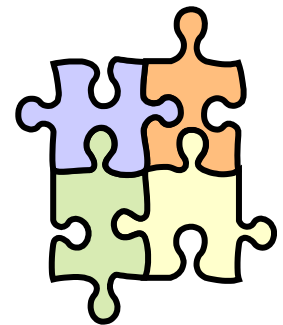
YAF (Young Architects Forum) & YCF (Young Contractors Forum) - Coming Together

Two separate organizations coming together to get to know one another, and work together. They have been working together for a few years—finding common grounds and interests. Last year they collaborated and signed an agreement of communication. Young Architects and Young Contractors have so much to learn from each other, as well as establishing opportunities for networking and creating life long bonds. There are some great ideas and ways to learn and get to know one another which have come out of this cooperative. Examples which other local and State chapters have begun to implement are:

1. Walk a day in my shoes—A young Architect and a Young Contractor spend half a day shadowing each other at their perspective offices.
2. quarterly reception—An opportunity for all Emerging professionals within the building industry to come together on a social and networking level.
3. Hard Hat Day—Construction Tours
4. Communication/Knowledge Conferences

All of these activities not only benefit the YAF and YCF but also incorporate Young Landscape Architects, Young Realtors, Draftspersons and all emerging professionals in the building Knowledge Community.

If this is something that excites you as much as we have been inspired by these great ideas please contact your local AIA PA Eastern Chapter.



Emerging Professionals

AIA Associate Membership Benefits

Submitted by Tim Mahoney, Assoc. AIA

In recent years the AIA has put forth a great effort to welcome and embrace the young professionals and developing interns of the architectural community. At all levels of the AIA, national, state and local chapters, more opportunities to participate and learn have been created for the architects of tomorrow. The AIA recognizes that we are the future leaders of the design profession and they have a desire and responsibility to see that through our development the profession will continue its standard of excellence as well as evolve. The AIA Associate Membership category has grown into a vital component within the organization. Associate Membership offers benefits to both the individual and the firm.

As a developing intern, an Associate Membership in the AIA can provide you with opportunities to participate in advocacy, better your community, expand your knowledge base, and provide you with contacts in all areas of the design and construction industry. At both the regional and state levels an Associate Director's position was created to give Associate Members a voice in the governing bodies of the organization. An Associates Committee was also established at the state level to open the lines of communication between local chapters. Through the efforts of the Regional and State Directors and the Associate Committee a National and Statewide e-mail is distributed to all Associate Members informing them of events within their local chapters as well as other areas throughout the state and the country. An Associate specific link was created at the AIA National and State websites, as well as access to the AIA career center. For the past three years at the Annual Statewide Leadership Conference programs and seminars geared specifically toward Interns and Associate Members have been included in the program. This Fall's Conference featured a presentation and hands-on demonstration from the International Masonry Institute and a presentation on the new edition of the Emerging Professionals Companion, to which any Associate Member has free access to over the internet. An Associates Category in the Statewide Design Competition was established, and this year it will feature a broader scope for submissions. National Competitions for Emerging Professionals Component of the Year and Emerging Professional of the Year are also open to Associate Members for submission. Currently the National Associates Committee is working on fostering a better mentoring program with which to provide individual guidance in finding a Mentor for professional development.

AIA Associate Membership is a valuable asset to a firm as well. By encouraging interns and young professionals to participate and show an interest in what is happening outside the walls of your office and in the local design community, and the profession as a whole, you instill a sense self importance and community responsibility. Inviting an Associate Member from your firm to attend monthly chapter meetings and events with you can also help bridge the generation gap and lay the groundwork for a more open working relationship.

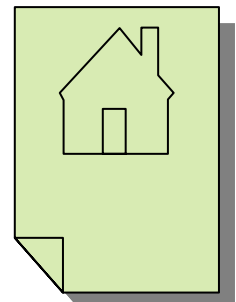
AIA Associate Membership has had a positive impact on my professional career thus far and I highly encourage any Intern Architect who is not a member to at least browse the National, State, and Chapter websites to view the many opportunities that are available to you.

Look for Future Newsletters....

We hope you enjoy this issue of our chapter newsletter. We plan to spotlight an architect each issue and provide a technical support article from our allied members.

To contribute, recommend, advertise or comment, please email aiaepc@aiaeasternpa.org

Thank you!



The Mission of AIA Pennsylvania

“In representing, serving, and communicating the interests of our local chapters and individual members, AIA Pennsylvania promotes the professions of architecture throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania while striving for the highest quality in the built environment.”

Core Values

AIA Pennsylvania, as a unifying body of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and their members, holds as its CORE VALUES, betterment of the fellowship, knowledge and skills of its members; thus the promise that enhancement of quality in the practice of architecture benefits the architect and all Pennsylvanians.

- We are dedicated to the quality of Pennsylvania's built environment.
- By serving as a resource to state government, we promote enlightened legislation relative to the built environment.
- We believe that an educated public adds value to the quality of the architect's services and products.
- We advocate the use of qualifications-based processes for selection of architects.
- We are committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of professional qualifications and licensure for architects in Pennsylvania.
- We are committed to advancements in the professional training of architects.
- We promote communication and interaction among the state components of the Institute.
- We value our members as our most important asset.
- We support the recognition of architectural achievements.
- We regard the architects role as essential to the preservation and development of the built environment.
- We support the highest standards of professional ethics.

