

AIA New England Reports November 2012

CONNECTICUT

AIA Connecticut Annual Conference

AIA Connecticut hosted its two-day, annual conference in October. Day One was highlighted by walking tours of significant New Haven architecture and culminated with a hard hat tour of the new Yale School of Management building designed by Sir Norman Foster. Day Two featured educational programming presented by the conference sponsors. This two-day event offered a total of eleven continuing education hours.

Annual Dues

AIA Connecticut is personally mailing its member dues invoices in mid-November. Many of our members were adversely affected by the recent storms and we felt it best to delay the mailing until people's lives recovered from the power outage and property damage.

Awards Reception

December 3, 2013

5:30

Long Wharf Theatre

222 Sargent Drive

New Haven, CT 06511

You are invited to join us at the newly renovated Long Wharf Theatre as we honor the recipients of our 2012 awards programs. We were fortunate to have had a hard hat tour of this project in early August and we are now returning to see the finished product. You may [register online](#).

Jury Day Hosts

AIA Connecticut members Russell Learned, AIA, Naomi Darling, AIA and Turner Brooks, AIA recently served as jurors for AIA Western Massachusetts' Design Awards. Jury Day was held at the AIA Connecticut office. Executive Director, Lorin Starr thanked us with an exquisite flower arrangement!

WESTERN MA

Our film series this fall focused on Cities. It was quite well attended and provoked much conversation about the architecture, vision, planning and development. We are planning a follow-up series for the spring.

We worked with the UMASS Historic Preservation Program (part of Architecture + Design) on a program entitled **Green Design and Historic Preservation: Exploring the Historic Building**. Several of our members were presenters. The program attracted almost 100 attendees and we provided CEUs for more than 30 architects.

Our other fall program was a tour of a member project – the EcoBuilding Bargains Store in Springfield – a retail outlet for recycled building materials.

2012 is an awards year for us and we thank our friends at AIA Connecticut for their kind hospitality in hosting our jury deliberations. Special thanks to Diane Harp Jones and her staff and to our Connecticut jury: Russell Learned AIA, Turner Brooks AIA and Naomi Darling AIA.

We just completed a three-day facilitated board retreat. It provided an extended opportunity to take stock of what we're doing, re-evaluate our mission, consider some new directions and explore some more effective means of organizing programs and activities. Thanks to AIA National for providing some support for this effort.

Our Annual Meeting and Awards Program is scheduled for December 14th. It will include a reception at a gallery where we will have a 2-week public exhibition of our award entries.

In collaboration with the Community Design Resource Center of Boston, and the Town of Monson, WMAIA and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission are conducting a Charrette at ABX to help the Town of Monson and its citizens imagine and rethink how its public places ? buildings, parks, open spaces ? might work together to support and foster this western Massachusetts community, which was hard hit by last year's hurricane. 250 people have registered for the Charrette will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 8:00 to noon.

AIARI

Fall Events kicked-off with the AIA Knowledge Community three-day Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN) Symposium in Newport, RI, September 6-9, 2012. The theme, "Elevating the Art of Residential Design and Practice" was excellently presented with open top-shelf receptions, keynote by Allan Shope, AIA, mansion tours, workshops and unique dinner groups organized to provide networking opportunities for sponsors and attendees on each of the three evenings of the event. AIARI distributed over 150 complimentary copies of "AIA Guide to Newport" to all attendees that helped all explore the city by the sea. The guidebooks created and printed in 2007 in celebration of the Institute's 150th anniversary under the direction of Mohamad Farzan continue to be a source of pride for the chapter in promoting an improved awareness of architecture.

We were honored to host a tour of the "This Old House" project in Barrington, RI, completed by member architects, Brewster- Thornton Group. The event was followed-up with the project and firm being featured at our October Gallery Night opening. Unfortunately, the watercolor workshop with Frank Costantino was cancelled due to a lack of interest, yet we hope to reschedule it for a future date.

We co-hosted the Annual Providence Preservation Society's Symposium this year titled, "Not Always Pretty – Behind the Façade of Historic Preservation in Providence". Starting with a screening and panel discussion of the film, "Southside: The Fall and Rise of an Inner City Neighborhood", it chronicled the problems associated with preserving a troubled neighborhood. The workshops examined the history, policies and politics of historic preservation in Providence, how neighborhoods are stabilized and sustained through historic preservation and concluded with walking tours of historic Benefit Street.

We also aligned ourselves with the local chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA) to support and art film series with our first effort being a viewing of "Urbanized", a documentary film by Gary Hustwit.

Finally, 12 chapter members, spouses and their families attended the AIA New England Regional Conference in Burlington, which was enjoyed by all with laid-back Burlington style, yet elevated to stellar height with keynote by Patricia Patkau. Attendees included 2014 AIANE Conference Co-Chairs Mike Warner and Doug Kallfelz who were taking notes for their future endeavor.

As we approach the year's end, all efforts are concentrated on the new combined Annual Business Meeting and Design Awards event to be held December 6, 2012 at the Hope Artists Village's "Greenhouse" space. Billed as "not your traditional sit-down dinner" event, the plan is to present the chapter's year in review with a multimedia exhibit of our accomplishments for the year. We are pleased to have shared juries with AIA New Hampshire for the Design Awards and look forward to the jury's results and future partnerships.

In conclusion, challenges for the chapter continue with coordinating events so they do not conflict with each other in order to ensure participation by more members, allied groups and the public. Bylaws revisions are being reviewed for updating next year and a task force has been set up to explore options for where AIARI might relocate if/when we find ourselves homeless!

It has been an exciting year and on behalf of the Rhode Island chapter, we look forward to continued expanded participation with the region, especially under the Presidency of our "Green Screen" Greg Spiess.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The NH Chapter has continued to be a very healthy Chapter with great monthly activities and events. The average attendance remains high with 40-50.

Our meetings continue to be the main outreach for our Chapter membership.

In September the NH membership boarded a bus in Manchester bound for the big City of Boston for a fabulous boat ride leaving the pier outside the BSA offices. We were treated to a guided tour of wonderful points of historical interest around the harbor and back-bay side of Boston by a Boston on Foot docent. Our event was well attended by the NH Chapter and AIA members as far south as Rhode Island and north from Maine.

Also in September, we spent an evening visiting behind the scenes in a tour preview of the NH Furniture Masters 2012 furniture auction exhibition. We heard from multiple presenters of each entry and marveled at the fabulous talents of our State craftsman in their celebration of creativity in wood and unique furniture design.

Oct: The fall foliage brought us back to the NH landscape with a very well attended combined meeting with the Granite State Landscape Architects association and NHAIA. Following a

delicious and tasty dinner, wine tasting session and the tour of the wine making process of the Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, NH, we had a wonderful discussion on project collaboration between architects and landscape architects. Our goal was to break the ground between our groups and open a dialogue about our common goal in sustainability and sustainable landscape design.

October also included two additional events; an Education Day for those professionals interested in gaining CEU credits. The second event was our annual 2-day Board Retreat to socialize, bond as a team, and plan for next year's programs events and challenges.

We did have November event but it was canceled due to a change in the facility's availability.

Also a grateful "Thanks" to Rhode Island Chapter for providing our jury for our 2013 Design Awards program.

Chris Walsh, Central MA: Had good codes program. Trying to wrestle with Exec Director position.

Vermont

Held awards jury (Maine). Annual meeting and awards is on Dec. 6. Working on programs for next year.

BSA

BSA held a roundtable for candidates. Next year will be the year of the emerging professional for BSA. Dec 6 will launch TurnSignal, about transportation, hosted by Gov. DuKakis. Have their annual meeting that evening. Later in Dec. hosting forum on informing gaming commission design review process. Awards program Jan. 31. Doing a Fit City program May 6.

MAINE

Programs: architecture 2030 series, just completed third out of 12 series, and it is going very well.

Annual meeting Dec. 4. 100 year committee have created centenary scholarship fund for Univ. Maine with fundraising from members and firms. Have raised \$54,000! Will have permanent AIA Gallery in Augusta.

