



# AIA New England

A Regional Council of The American Institute of Architects

## COMPONENT REPORTS

### **AIA MAINE**

At our Annual Meeting in December we welcomed about 170 people to a program by Maine State Historian, Earle Shettleworth, entitled, "When Modernism Came to Maine."

It was a new presentation, which Earle created specifically for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual meeting. It was very well received and some members remarked that it was one of the best programs they had ever attended.

We also wrapped up our 100<sup>th</sup> year with a total of over \$58,000 to establish the "AIA Maine Centenary Scholarship Fund" at the University of Maine in Augusta. The gifts came from our members, our own treasury and allied businesses. There will be a plaque displayed in the architecture school gallery recognizing major donors. We also used some of the funds to purchase new chairs and tables for the gallery and it will be the new location of our Board of Directors Meetings.

We transitioned to a new president, Judy Johnson and a new vice president, Robert Tillitson. Our secretary and treasurer are staying on in their respective roles and we said good bye to former president and board member Carol Gillis and welcomed one new board member, Joseph Hemes.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

AIA Maine's new Communications Director Jeannette Schram began in January and just published her first AIA Maine news. Jeannette will continue with a quarterly format and will also help with chapter graphic design needs and lend support to a newly formed Communications Committee.

### **COTE**

COTE will present session 7 of the +2030 Professional Series this week and we will wrap it up in June. We have about 35 participants at each one and it has been a HUGE success for us and very much appreciated by our membership. In fact Vincent Martinez from AIA 2030 will be presenting at our last Session in June. Gunnar Hubbard is in the process of organizing the group to begin planning for the series again next year.

### **PROGRAM**

Since we are a geographically large state we are constantly trying to figure out ways to create fellowship opportunities among our members. Our program committee is planning tours of different buildings designed by our members around the state.

### **DESIGN**

Our Design Committee is considering a design competition/event, as this is the off year of our Design Awards. We have also been looking at ways to highlight the accomplishments of our members. For instance there is an article each month in our local magazine Maine Home and Design that focus on the design theory of one of our members. At our annual meeting we also acknowledged awards and recognitions that our membership received in 2012 and we are planning to do the same in 2013.

### **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

This committee has been busy planning our annual Legislative Breakfast and this year it will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>. They are also in the thick of keeping track of the bills being introduced in the legislature and have testified on one to increase School Funding.

### **EMERGING PROFESSIONALS**

We are also trying to involve our recent graduates and support them in their pursuits in becoming licensed architects. Kim Tuttle, the chair of that committee has also been reaching out to high schools to inform students about the architectural profession and educational requirements.

We finished the year in great financial shape and our membership remains steady. Several firms in Maine have been hiring in the last few months and we have welcomed several new members to AIA Maine.

### **AIA NEW HAMPSHIRE**

In January we had a very successful Annual Banquet that was attended by 175+ members, spouses and guests. Our first programming event for the year was Feb 7 at the Service Credit Union in Portsmouth designed by GUND Partnership. This month our monthly event will be at Stonyfield Farm in Londonderry.

The Educational Committee will run it's first 2013 Box City at Windham Middle School. The program will run for 5 weeks starting in April.

The AIANH Board is actively seeking sponsors to raise funds for our Learning by Design programs.

### **AIA CONNECTICUT**

*AIA Connecticut invites all AIA New England members to join us at our events and programming for member pricing. Please check our website for programs of interest. [www.aiact.org](http://www.aiact.org)*

### **AIA CONNECTICUT ANNUAL OUTING**

**May 21, 2013**

**The Farms Country Club**

**Wallingford, CT**

Despite the date on the calendar, this is a perfect time to begin planning for the return to outdoor activities. AIA Connecticut's 2013 Annual Outing will have some exciting twists. This year we have added tennis and croquet to the mix, so there is an activity for all levels of athletic

ability. Croquet players are encouraged to wear something white and a straw hat. This is one event you will not want to miss!

All attendees will gather together at the end of the day for a relaxing reception.

<http://aiact.org/membersite/events.php?Date=20130521>

## **AIA CONNECTICUT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**October 2, 2013**

**Fairfield University**

**Fairfield, CT**

- ♦ Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, will deliver the keynote address.
- ♦ Educational programs will focus on secure and resilient design, covering security issues and planning for various disasters.
- ♦ Earn up to five continuing education credits.
- ♦

**October 16, 2013**

**Arena at Harbor Yards**

**Bridgeport, CT**

- ♦ Features informational sessions and educational programs.
- ♦ Earn up to six continuing education credits.

## **AIA RHODE ISLAND**

In December we combined our Annual Meeting with our Design Awards Gala at the Hope Artiste Village in Pawtucket, RI. We launched our new format of heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks, which was very well received. We had a record number of sponsors for the event. We would like to thank AIA New Hampshire for being our jury and Mark Moeller who was a terrific representative of the jury.

We are co-sponsoring the Providence Carbon Challenge, which is a competition to design a Habitat for Humanity house in Providence while considering the greenhouse gas emissions of construction materials. The kickoff was in February at the Roots Café in Providence where they announced the competition and gave tours of the site. In March the winners will be determined at a celebration followed by an exhibition of the entries at our gallery space.

We are in our third year of Gallery Night Providence and this year we are focusing more on the work of our firms. We have several firms lined up to showcase their work to the membership and to the public. On March 21, our first gallery night will feature the 2012 design award winners.

We are working with a representative of FEMA who is here in RI and would like to collaborate on a program focusing on building better, smarter and stronger in coastal areas. This is in response to Hurricane Sandy and will be held sometime in the spring.

Our Emerging Professionals committee is sponsoring a seven-week seminar series leading candidates through each section of the Architecture Registration Examination. They are also working on their annual forum, which will take place in the spring.

They are trying to reinstate historic tax credit in RI.

## **AIA WESTERN MASS**

Our Annual Awards Program and Exhibition (held in December) was a great success. We had an excellent turnout at the exhibition and some good local publicity. In addition to our design awards, we presented two honorary memberships and two scholarships to graduate students in the UMASS M.Arch program, supported in part by AIA National.

As a result of our board retreat, our board decided to focus our immediate attention on broadening our engagement of the membership and supporting emerging professionals. We've been particularly successful with the latter and have seen an initial meeting of nine enthusiastic emerging professionals and two associate members (Lindsay Schnarr and Jason Newman) stepping up to share the Auxiliary IDP Coordinator position. We are also looking at strategies to increase non-dues revenues to improve our budget situation.

WMAIA has been coordinating with AIA Massachusetts on design issues related to proposed casino development. We are also working with our local planning agency on this issue as it seems likely that one casino will be located in Western Mass.

We've been asked (and have agreed) to co-sponsor a design competition (next fall) with the City of Northampton and have been assisting in developing guidelines for the program.

We just held a program as part of the UMASS Historic Preservation and Sustainability Series entitled Cultural Heritage and the Challenge of Sustainability. This was part of an ongoing partnership with UMASS to develop programs that bring students, faculty and professionals together.

Our film series resumes March 13 with a series of documentaries (see poster attached). We have a Sketch-Up workshop coming up on March 18. In addition we are working on several building tours and a program on the Lead Paint Law as it pertains to architects.

## **AIA CENTRAL MA**

Just a quick report on the AIACM hosted Annual Meeting. We have committees formed and have started talking with venues, hotels, etc. and think that we will have an exciting event, probably featuring Worcester and many of the architectural and planning accomplishments and challenges of this Massachusetts "Gateway City." October 5 is the date for the conference. Working with the mayor's office and the tourism bureau to help pull things together.

Chris is Vice chair of global warming and climate change at the state house. Will focus on green issues at the conference. If there are suggestions in terms of programming, let them know.

## **AIA VERMONT**

### **Continuing Education Programs**

- In February, presented social including LU component at architect members' firm. (Middlebury)
- Plans for two panel discussion underway. One will be focused on pros and cons of various architecture software. The other is focused on the relevance of architecture; it is to be held at Middlebury College and will be open to the public, student, our members, etc.

- In conversations with Ann Beha's office re: possible building tour of new Shelburne Museum Community Center.

### **Public Policy**

- Continued working VT Division of Fire Safety to revise fire/building codes. Despite our participation, issues around Access Board's interpretation of such codes have arisen, particularly around elevator requirements for small projects in downtown areas or historic renovations. The interpretations were likely going to result, unintentionally, in a movement back to the construction of projects with large footprints in rural areas -- "building sprawl."
- DFS is now going back and revising the 2012 codes and will once again accept AIAVT feedback.

### **Design Awards**

- We had our largest gathering ever at the 2012 December Design Awards, held at the Vermont Statehouse.

### **EPN**

- Our new EPN group has launched a design competition called "Farm to Fork Stand," which is open to those working or living in NE. Details can be found on the AIAVT website.
- The group also has a calendar of socials, group study meetings, and other activities.

### **Architecture Practice**

- We're in the throes of researching an article for AIAVT News about the possible trend among municipalities to require schematics as part of bid process. We're interested in learning more from our fellow NE Chapters about their experiences with this. Several Vt. members report instances of this. Do any states have legislation passed regarding the prevention of such a practice?

## **BSA**

Following several transitions in leadership in recent years, the BSA Board of Directors announced the appointment of Eric White as Executive Director on Jan. 31.

### **Advocacy**

The BSA is currently involved in a wide range of advocacy endeavors in collaboration with AIA MA and various partner organizations. We are working to build a broader base of member engagement, especially among emerging professionals and to clearly articulate our core issues to the AEC community. Key issues are:

- **regional transportation visioning**, supported by a grant from the Barr Foundation; - **sustainability initiatives**, including the AIA 2030 Commitment, and energy monitoring and reporting; - **promotion of active design** via a Fit City conference co-hosted with the City of Boston.

**Member Value** - We are actively working to **develop future leaders among emerging professionals** via educational programs, committee leadership opportunities and mentorship, including the just- launched Leadership Lunches, which will be hosted by local firms.  
- The sold-out **Design Awards Gala** on January 31 celebrated all the 2012 BSA design awards winners, as well as BSA Award of Honor recipient Jane Thompson, Assoc. AIA. Information about 2013 awards programs can be found at [www.architects.org/awards](http://www.architects.org/awards).

**Public Outreach** – The current exhibit at **BSA Space**, *Design Biennial Boston*, highlights the work of numerous emerging Boston firms. See all the news about happenings at BSA Space at [www.bsaspace.org](http://www.bsaspace.org).

- The winter issue of **ArchitectureBoston**, examining the state of architectural education, is now available. Pick up a copy or read the magazine online at [www.architectureboston.com](http://www.architectureboston.com).

#### **UPCOMING**

##### **Annual Fellows Dinner – May 2, 2013**

To be held at the Tavern Club in Boston, with Bill Pedersen FAIA as guest speaker. All New England Fellows invited. Invitations will be forthcoming, with replies needed by April 30. Contact Ann Fienman ([afienman@architects.org](mailto:afienman@architects.org)) for registration information.

##### **Fit City Boston Summit – May 6, 2013**

To be held at BSA Space in partnership with the City of Boston. Contact Mary Fichtner ([mfichtner@architects.org](mailto:mfichtner@architects.org)) for more information.