



AIA New England Region

June 2014 Report
by Peter Kuttner, FAIA and Richard Quinn, FAIA

1 **Overarching Topic - Outreach and Connectivity**

Outreach

AIANE is continuing to discuss outreach to both emerging professionals, under (mentoring Initiative 1) and potential Fellow candidates (Advancement Initiative 2). The bulk of the schools and the Fellows are in the Boston and the Connecticut components, so much of the conversation has been about helping the other six components in our region. In the two larger components, the local Fellows are also looking to connect to other existing Chapter programs that align with the COF initiatives..

Richard and Peter both attended the 1st quarter regional meeting in March and last week's 2nd quarter regional meeting. It continues to be a concern was that all seven new Fellows in New England this year are from Massachusetts. We are looking at ways that Massachusetts and Connecticut might help Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island recruiting and supporting

2 **Initiative 1 - Mentoring**

Mentoring with EPNet

In Boston the BSA's EPNet (Emerging Professionals Network) has become the dominant group for young designers, specifically focused on recent graduates, IDP participants, and young architects, whether in YAF or not. They sponsor several events and we have taken advantage of those events to promote the Leadership Lunhes.

Leadership Lunches

This year we have begun the second year of "Leadership Lunches" as a mentoring initiative. We had a planning meeting with the EPNet this time to review the initial year's success and make changes as required. The emerging professionals asked for a wider range of office types to visit for the lunches, and some time together to plan the agenda. Once again, a dozen firms have agreed to host 4 monthly lunches for 4-6 young people to visit and ask questions. Many of the senior people involved are Fellows, but it is not specifically a COF activity. We are half way through this summer's schedule.

3 **Initiative 2 - Fellows Advancement**

Nomination Support

BSA's Honors and Awards Committee is tasked with identifying and nominating potential Fellows. Additional nominations are sought through the component Boards and peer suggestions. This year we have suggested that the Fellows themselves might become more active and avail themselves of the right to nominate candidates with five Fellows.

Demystifying Fellowship

As do many chapters, Boston has an annual meeting of the nominees for Fellowship, to explain the submission process and the general approach of the jury. BSA's Managing Director Ann Fienman is the staff liaison for the Honors & Awards Committee, who make nominations for Fellowship.

Ann held this years session this past Friday 6 June 2014. We specifically invited all the new BSA nominees, and also nominees from the other New England chapters, because of the lack of success by smaller chapters in the past few years. We also had three recently elevated Fellows as panelists to talk about their experiences with the application process, and offer practical tips.

AIA Connecticut offers their Fellows review committee to other AIANE members as well.

New Nominees

This year the BSA Honors and Awards Committee has nominated 9 new potential Fellows. There is some concern our committee is too fervent in rejecting people, so we will may have more nominated by petition.

Submission Support

After nomination, the BSA has created a committee to link experienced Fellows with new nominees, for advice independent of their Sponsors. Once the nominee and their sponsor have begun to draft their materials, the nominee meets one or more times to advise and encourage the applicant.

New Fellows Breakfast

This year the BSA has attempted to grab new young Fellows earlier in their tenure. We had a breakfast with the new Fellows prior to the Convocation, and had several senior staff, the COF Regional Rep, and the chair of our Fellows Committee. Our biggest priority was to enlist them in helping new nominees, since they are more familiar with the current process, and know the nominee pool somewhat better.

4 Initiative 3 - Community Leadership

BSA Fellows Committee

We have a designated BSA Fellows committee, headed by Tony Tappe, FAIA. His committee includes Chuck Redmon, FAIA, Sho-Ping Chin, FAIA, Hubert Murray, FAIA, Larry Chan, FAIA, Elizabeth Padjen, FAIA, Jane Weinzapfel, FAIA, and Peter Kuttner, FAIA. Their main activity is the planning for the annual Fellows Dinner.

BSA Governance

The BSA has revised their governance in the past year. The COF Regional Representative from Boston, if there is one, now officially has a position on the BSA Board representing the College of Fellows. Peter fills the role currently as the Regional Rep, as well as sitting on the AIA New England Board.

Annual Fellows Dinner

This year the BSA annual dinner was on Tuesday, May 20. It was the largest to date, with 75 people attending. After decades at the Tavern Club, in downtown Boston, this time it was relocated to the St. Botolph's Club, another historic club in Back Bay

To connect Fellows with current trends, the speaker this year was Mark Goulthorpe, an MIT architect and academic, who is doing very interesting things with methods of robotic assembly and composite fabrication. He also has a company developing HypoSurface, an organic moving wall that responds to movements of users. He has served on the BSA

Board in the recent past as the MIT representative, and so is close to the AIA..

The Connecticut annual dinner will be held in the fall, and is still in the planning stages.

Fellows Drawings

They have formed an Archives sub-committee, which is investigating a repository for original drawings by BSA Fellows and their firms. As part of their effort, they are considering a show in the new BSA gallery for Drawings by Architects.

5 Other Resources, and Topics

Boston Architecture Family Tree

Last year the BSA Fellows held an interactive event and reception at BSA|Space, during which attendees were asked to contribute their knowledge to capture the history of Boston's architecture community. The event was videotaped and much historical data collected, but now we are looking at how to catalog and share the information.

Podcasts

The BSA is working for the third summer with the Boston branch of CultureNOW (begun in AIANY) to record podcasts of Massachusetts-area architects and Fellows. Three interns from the GSD at Harvard will work at the BSA|Space on the project.

Finance

As a BSA committee, the BSA Fellows Committee, led by Tony Tappe FAIA, is given an allowance of \$500/year.