



AIA New England

A Regional Council of The American Institute of Architects

AIA NEW ENGLAND COMPONENT REPORTS

February 18, 2015

AIA Rhode Island

The RI chapter kicked off its 2015 programming with the annual AIARI open house. Despite the snow there was a good turnout. The aim of the open house is to engage members and non-members to participate in chapter events and possibly join several working committees.

AIARI is working with Roger Williams University and the Providence Public Library to set up an on site and digital archive of the work of RI architects. This will be available to all members of the community.

In the coming months the Emerging Professionals will host several tours and events to engage the chapter's young professionals.

AIARI will begin its Gallery Night season beginning with the 2014 AIARI Design Awards Winners. We will be sending out a call to entries to the community with the hopes of hosting exhibitions that will be collaborative within the community.

The AIARI COTE will be active in planning the annual summer conference and expo at Roger Williams University. We are hoping to activate several more committees that will work to organize upcoming chapter events.

The chapter is in the process of rebranding our newsletter Premises. We are also hoping to put together an online directory to showcase the work of all of our members.

The AIA Knowledge Community Committee on Design is hosting its annual conference in Providence this September. Members of the AIARI board are working with the chair of the committee to help in the planning of the event.

AIA New Hampshire

1. AIANH continues will hold its final AIA2030 Series Session on February 26. We will be streaming in Ed Mazria FAIA as one of the presenters.
2. 2015 Awards program gala was held January 23, results are at:
<http://www.aianh.org/content/design-awards>
3. The NH AEER Task force is working hard to promote HB292, this year's attempt at passing Good Sam legislation. We are starting with the House this year, where it failed last year.

4. NH Legislature is looking at a bill that will essentially give municipalities the ability to decide whether or not to enforce the energy code in new construction. We have advocated against this. Currently the bill is retained in committee, and we hope it will quickly disappear.
5. HS Design Comp submissions are due April 15, and awards will be presented at the joint Keene State College Architecture Department-AIANH meeting on April 30.

AIA Maine

1. In November of 2014 our Emerging Professionals Committee hosted a lecture titled, "Licensure + You." Katie Wetherbee presented the latest licensure information from NCARB.
2. AIA Maine elected two new Board Members to the Board at our 2014 Annual Meeting, Jill Johnaning and Dave Johnson. Judy Johnson's two-year term as president ended in 2014. Our 2015-2016 officers are Rob Tillotson, President; Kay Stevens-Rosa; Vice-President; Scott Simons, Secretary; John Morris, Treasurer; Judy Johnson, Immediate-Past President.
3. On February 25th our Design Committee is hosting its first AIA Social in Southern Maine. Our chapter is a statewide organization and we are working on reaching out to our members where they live. This event is the first of four AIA Socials planned throughout the state in 2015.
4. COTE is partnering with Passivhaus Maine to bring Gunter Lang to our state to present his international work on passivhaus projects. The event will take place on March 16.
5. COTE is planning a lecture and symposium for June 4-5. Bob Birkebile is scheduled to give a lecture on June 4th. Our COTE group has reached out to other New England COTE groups to see if there is interest in partnering with us on this symposium.
6. AIA Maine plans to host a COTE Award program in 2015. We are currently working on the timing.

AIA Western MA

1. Our December annual meeting included the presentation of our Design Awards, scholarships and honorary memberships. This year we are teamed up with the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, which turned out a more diverse group of submissions. The submissions were juried in New Hampshire – thanks to Carolyn and AIANH! The event included a tour of the renovation/addition to the Unitarian Meetinghouse in Amherst. The meeting was co-sponsored by Wright Builders and Kuhn Riddle Architects. Honorary WMAIA memberships were presented to UMASS professor Max Page and to former Massachusetts Congressman John Olver. Two scholarships totaling \$1500 were given with \$1000 in support from AIA National.
2. New board members for 2015 are: Kristian Whitsett AIA and Jason Newman Associate. We said goodbye and THANK YOU to long serving board members Martha Montgomery AIA and Jeremy Toal AIA. Rachel Beesen AIAS has taken our student board position replacing Nayef Mudawar AIAS.
3. Our "Connecting to Craft" series, funded by an EP grant from College of Fellows in the amount of \$3600, is well underway. Three of the four workshops have been completed and the last workshop is scheduled for March 12th. The workshops are designed to help drafting

- and field architects establish greater understanding of materials, assembly details and standards assemblies by placing them in direct conversation with the people who build and install on the job site. The associated website is under construction. We will circulate information on the website when it goes live.
4. Looking ahead, we are working on a possible Art by Architects exhibition in the winter of 2015....more on this when we have confirmed the program.
 5. We developed a sponsor/affiliate outreach program that launched in December. The program was based on similar programs presented at a non-dues revenue workshop at Grassroots in 2014. So far we've picked up a few new members and have seen some longtime supporters upgrade their membership. More work to be done but we're moving in a good direction!
 6. Finally, we were pleased to learn that one of our members, John Robinson AIA, was appointed to the AIA National Committee on Disaster Assistance. John is excited to serve on this committee and WMAIA will facilitate communication with all New England chapters regarding its work..

AIA Connecticut

Advocacy

- Nullem Tempus – AIA Connecticut continues to work with elected and appointed officials at various levels within the State to secure the adoption of a Statute of Limitations.
- School Security Guidelines – We continue to work with the Department of Construction Services, Office of School Facilities to enact improvements to the School Security Guidelines endorsed by the Legislature at the end of the Legislative session in 2014. The first draft of the technical supplement to accompany the Guidelines is expected momentarily. AIA Connecticut will be reviewing and commenting.
- School Building Projects Advisory Council – We continue to work with this working group appointed by the Governor. They are charged with looking at controlling costs for State granting to municipalities and school districts where school construction is involved.
- Codes and Standards Committee – We continue to work closely with our State Codes and Standards Committee to maintain a unified code across the State.

Professional Development

- February 17: Sustainable and Historic Preservation, 3 HSW hours, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- March 18: Building Code Essentials, 3 HSW hours, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- March 20: The design and Performance Advantages of Composite Shake, Shingle and Slate, 1 HSW hour/1 GBCI hour, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
- March 31: Mechanical Design Concepts to Ensure Comfort, Efficiency and Happy Clients, 3 CE hours, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- April 21: Zero Net energy Homes - A Workshop, 6.5 HSW hours, 8:15 - 4:00 pm

Outreach

- Net Zero Energy – Please join us to hear Marc Rosenbaum on Tuesday, April 21. We will be inviting colleagues from ACEC, the Connecticut Green Building Council and Connecticut Home Builders and Remodelers Association as well.
- Architecture and Health – Please join us on Wednesday, July 8. We will be inviting colleagues from the Department of Health and Human Services, Hospital Administrators and Public Health Professionals as well.
- AIA New England – We are working to shape a wonderful event for all those across AIA New England and invite you to plan to join us in Connecticut for this event this fall. We are tentatively looking at Friday evening, October 30 for the AIA New England Design Awards Reception and Dinner. We hope to begin the evening with a free public lecture offered from a speaker of interest to those within the profession as well as the public at large. The lecture would be followed by a reception for those attending the Awards program and then dinner would follow. We are planning to host the late afternoon and evening event at the University of Hartford.

Upcoming

Please visit us at www.aiact.org/calendar. All of our extended family within the design and construction industry all across New England is always warmly welcomed at any AIA Connecticut event.



AIA MASSACHUSETTS

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REPORT to AIANE

February 12, 2015

Submitted by Elise F. Woodward, AIA

AIA MA focuses on legislative and regulatory advocacy in Massachusetts for issues that have direct impact on the architectural profession.

The Government Affairs Committee meets monthly to track legislation as the sole committee of AIA MA. The current focus is on legislative priorities for the 2015-2016 General Court Session. All recommendations will be brought to the board of AIA MA for their consideration.

The AIA MA Board met in December to elect new officers for 2015:

- Thomas Hartman, AIA, Immediate Past President
- Elise F. Woodward, AIA, President
- Ethan Anthony, AIA, President-Elect
- Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham, AIA, Secretary

Legislative Advocacy

AIA MA legislative priorities include:

- Develop a strategy for making connections to new appointees in the Baker Administration who will have an opportunity to influence the profession
- Communicate policy priorities with regard to sustainable development and construction to the new administration
- Follow proposed legislation on Revenue Neutral carbon tax proposed by Senator Michael Barrett
- Follow our proposed legislation designed to close the loophole in existing law that allows any board that promulgates building codes to ignore disapproval of the BCCC. Rep. Chris Walsh AIA agreed to sponsor a bill on behalf of AIA Massachusetts, filed as HD (House Docket) 1460 – An Act Establishing the Building Code Coordinating Council. In all, we were able to get 21 co-sponsors for the bill – which is a huge success!! They are as follows: Representatives Aciero, Brodeur, Donahue, DiNatale, DiZoglio, Dykema, Galvin, Garballey, Garlick, Kafka, Keefe, Kulik, McMurtry, Provost, Toomey and Vega; and Senators Gobi, Lewis, L'Italien, Spilka and Timilty.
- Focus on resolving challenges architects regularly encounter with public contracts. AIA MA will host gatherings of practitioners to:
Define the Issues, Discuss Strategies to Achieve Preferred Resolutions, and Frame the Advocacy Positions we may take to assist the membership.
 - Possible topics are:
 - the RFQ / RFP process
 - contractual obligations
 - liability / standard of care
 - fee structure
 - insurability clauses
 - tax issues.

*AIA Massachusetts is the consortium of the Boston Society of Architects,
the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the AIA and the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the AIA*



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Regulatory Action

AIA MA has been asked to participate on the following state commissions/task forces each tasked with solving a particular problem related to the built environment.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Accelerated Energy Program - Commissioner Carol Cornelison, Chair.

Purpose: The Accelerated Energy Program (AEP) was established in December 2011 to accelerate the implementation of energy and water projects across the Commonwealth and help the Commonwealth comply with Executive Order 484, Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings, signed by Governor Patrick in April 2007. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) is working with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and other partners to retrofit 700 sites encompassing more than 4,800 buildings throughout the Commonwealth in 700 days.

Progress to Date: To better coordinate energy work as it relates to accessibility goals and requirements, a partnership was developed between the AEP and the DCAMM Office of Planning, Design and Construction (OPDC); work at a total of 142 sites is complete and 460 sites are underway; Initiated towards Zero Net Energy (TZNE) retrofits at 10 pilot sites to achieve deeper savings and install renewable energy systems. A comprehensive toolkit of information, FAQs, posters, certification plaques and awards has been developed to help communicate AEP work at each site. The AEP has developed roll-out plans with Courts, MassDOT and DCR that include customization of these materials and inclusion of agency logos to convey the collaborative partnership between DCAMM and the client agencies

Boston Survivors Accessibility Alliance – Dept. of Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Gatzunis

Purpose: DPS has established the Boston Survivors Accessibility Alliance (BSAA) to assist those who may need assistance with renovations to help transition to a new lifestyle. The focus of these services will be on home modifications; however, consideration may be given to modifications to businesses owned by the individual. These requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis. DPS is partnering with private and public individuals and groups in the building and construction industry to serve as the single point of contact, and a resource clearing house for services and goods which will be necessary to make these modifications. Modifications may include construction of ramps, widening doorways to accommodate wheelchairs, reconfiguring bathroom or kitchen space or other appropriate renovations.

The group will focus on assisting individuals in obtaining suitable design and construction services, sorting through permitting and approvals processes, and general guidance through what may otherwise be a daunting task. The hope is that these services will be donated and all fees waived.

Progress: No new update.

Casino Building and Site Design Update

Update: The City of Revere has filed suit in Suffolk Superior Court against the MA Gaming Commission, charging that it acted with bias and caprice in awarding the Greater Boston casino license to Wynn in

September. In filing the suit attorneys at law Mirick O’Connell notified AIA MA in writing on November 7th that, “Due to your involvement with the facts in this case, you are hereby notified to preserve all documents and electronically stored information....” The attorneys have indicated that no immediate action is required by AIA MA other than being aware that sometime in the future (if a judge decides the case has merit) it **may** be asked to produce documentation of its dealings with the Commission.



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Blended Building Code

Goal: Work with the Building Board of Regulations and Standards (BBRS) to ensure that instead of the current practice of taking the ICC's base building code and adding Massachusetts "front-end" amendments to it, AIA MA will work to ensure that the upcoming 9th edition of the state building code is "blended", meaning that all MA amendments are "blended" into ICC's base IBC/IRC language.

Progress: Discussions are still ongoing between SoS/BBRS staff and ICC. BBRS staff is working toward a

Spring 2015 promulgation of the 9th Edition with MA amendments. Given the upcoming change in Administration in January, and the associated regulatory slowdown that will occur while the new Administration gets itself up-and-running, it is much more likely that the BBRS will vote final promulgation of the 9th Edition in the Fall of 2015. The BBRS is still anticipating a January 1, 2016 implementation date.

Architectural Registration Board – New Regulations Issue: In October 2013 Massachusetts' Architectural Registration Board (ARB) proposed an updated set of regulations governing the practice of architecture in MA. After a variety of discussions with AIA MA regarding their proposals, the ARB voted to move into the Administrations review process a revised set of proposed regulations at their May 2014 meeting.

Progress: Since May 2014, AIA MA has been working with both the ARB and the Division of Professional Licensure to move the proposed regulations out of DPL's review and further into the Administrations review process (called the EO 485 review). To date it appears as though DPL is unwilling to release the regulations from their review due to their concerns that the ARB may be overreaching their authority. Due to this stalemate, AIA MA should consider reaching out to incoming Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash for help in moving the regulations forward.