President’s Message

Lisa Sukut, AIA, President of AIA Montana

This is my first newsletter article as president and I have to let everyone know that so far it has been exciting serving our membership. Time flies as you pass through the board chairs to prepare for becoming president and representing our architects, interns and members. It is a very gratifying experience. Ten years ago, I represented Billing Architectural Association as their president and that feels like yesterday.

I now am getting ready for Grassroots next week in Washington DC. There has been reorganization within the AIA which comes from review of our profession and the Repositioning. This year's conference is “leadership and legislative conference.” The conference will help your board members with ways to strengthen the profession and work towards a “better future for architects.” I look forward to the workshops and classes that will help us with ways to connect with members. Report will follow after attending!

The Board met with Adam de Yong, Acting Division Administrator of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Dave Cook, and their lawyer to discuss adopting the definition of a public building as stated in the IBC. This issue has been active since before I joined the Board and has had many advocates. Thanks to all the members that were able to attend the meeting in Helena. We are closer than ever to solving this long standing issue and I am an optimist believing that between Bill Grant, Dale Nelson and Richard Shanahan spearheading the drive; it will get done!

The Board also asked Jennifer James and her husband, Darryl, to come and visit with us at the last board meeting in Helena. We were all very impressed and look forward to Jennifer and Darryl being our lobbyists next year and having them keep us up to date on legislation that pertains to our profession. We appreciate the excellent care Jennifer has given us in the past.

Northwest Pacific Regional meeting is restructuring the annual conference for 2014 into a one and a half day Leadership Retreat which will focus more on business. The conference will be October 1 & 2 in Tacoma with AIA Southwest Washington holding a continuing education conference with the Leadership meeting. We have sent an invitation to Regional to sponsor the 2015 Regional Leadership Meeting in Bozeman in 2015.

We are continuing to have great relationship with Bozeman School of Architecture and have a very strong AIAS Chapter this year. It is nice to hear firms are supporting the future of our profession and are mentoring interns and students to help achieve their goals.
AIA Montana News

AIA Fall Conference 2014 —
Architecture ....A Difference

Klint Fisher, AIA, Secretary/Treasurer of AIA Montana, 2014 Fall Conference Chair

While reviewing projects with colleagues in our office lately, I was struck by the amount of change that those of us practicing architecture here in Montana are faced with. In order to successfully serve our clients and develop as professionals, we must stay current with jurisdictional requirements for design projects, be familiar with the latest construction materials and techniques, all while tracking licensing and continuing education requirements. The State of Montana’s upcoming adoption of the 2012 IBC and the constantly evolving high-performance building and energy conservation guidelines are only a couple examples of the ever-expanding criteria that we must design to.

However, along with the changes that impact our profession, architecture also provides us with the opportunity to affect change as well. We have a responsibility to improve our communities, not only through the buildings we design, but also by educating the public regarding issues of the built environment and providing civic and community service. Architects should be leaders and valued resources with regard to sustainable design, life safety and welfare, and community development at the local, state and national levels. We also have a responsibility to develop the next generation of architects to ensure that the profession continues to be a valuable asset to our communities.

Due to the changes that we as architects are facing, as well as the opportunities for development within the profession that we are seeking, it only seems appropriate that the AIA Fall Conference should see some transformation as well. In order to better serve our membership, we will be revising the format of the Fall Conference to provide more opportunities for education and development. In addition to the traditional speakers, we will be providing additional educational opportunities on topics ranging from building materials and techniques to sustainable design requirements and trends. The updated conference format will still allow for networking opportunities and interaction with vendors that we have all come to value. While working with my fellow board members as the 2014 Fall Conference Chairperson, my excitement continues to grow as we refine and finalize the program, speakers and presentations for the Fall Conference.

Please stay tuned for further updates as we work through the details. In the meantime, please mark your calendars to join us in Helena September 25th and 26th for the 2014 AIA Montana Fall Conference, and expect a difference!
Montana State University collaborated to host local Girl Scouts on Saturday, March 8th in the CTA Billings office for a fun morning of architecture activities. The “Design Your Future” event filled the building with excitement as the women helped girls in grades 2-8 understand what architects do, what tools they use, and what design is through a series of hands-on activities.

The Girl Scouts broke into teams and kicked off the day by having a competition to see who could design and build the tallest skyscraper using blocks and connectors provided by the Museum of the Rockies. The girls displayed excellent team work, developing smaller prototypes before beginning to build and strategizing together as their structures grew. It was a close call, but the winning team’s tower was over 11 feet tall, even with its slight lean toward the top. After all the skyscrapers were completed, the Girl Scouts learned about different architectural tools and terms and explored the office on an architecture scavenger hunt.

STEM is a primary focus of this year’s programming for the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming. If you would like to host and volunteer for a Girl Scouts “Design Your Future” event in your community with the help of AIA Montana and AIAS MSU, please contact Mary Klette at maryklette@yahoo.com or Shannon Peterson at shannonp@ctagroup.com.

While the girls enjoyed a snack after searching all five floors, women from AIA Montana and AIAS MSU fielded questions on how they became interested in architecture, what they like most about architecture, and what school subjects they enjoyed growing up. There may have been future architects in the room, as some of the girls said they are already mastering SketchUp.

“Girls displayed excellent team work, developing smaller prototypes before beginning to build and strategizing together as their structures grew.”
31st Annual Meeting in the Mountains—
"Leadership by Design"

This year’s MITM includes over 18 Learning units, 3 guest speaker presentations, a tour of the new Billings Public Library, vendor visits, lunch and dinner. Your MITM registration of $100 includes 1 year of membership in Billings Architectural Association. March 21 is the deadline for Early registration. Sign up at https://www.aiabillings.org/meeting-in-the-mountains/...click on “Register Online.”

2014 MIM Speakers
Jonathan Segal, FAIA — Architect as Developer “No Clients Invited” (1.5 LU HSW)
Jonathan Segal FAIA redefines the role of the traditional architect by exclusively eliminating the client and developing, constructing and designing his own work. He is considered Downtown San Diego’s most successful and pioneering residential architectural development company. Most recently he sold a portion of his portfolio for $45,000,000. Currently his company owns and manages over $50,000,000 of real estate and has another $40,000,000 under development and construction. Awarded the 2013 Distinguished Architect Award from the State of California AIA. (The State’s highest individual honor) The Charmer Lofts was selected the Top Residential Project in the US for 2012 by Residential Architecture magazine out of 800 applicants from throughout the world.

He has won:
- Six National American Institute of Architecture (AIA) Housing awards
- Seven Residential Architecture Magazine Honor Awards
- 2004 Residential Architect Magazine’s National Rising Star

2003 at age of 41 Awarded AIA Honor of Fellow, youngest in San Diego’s history.
He was named by the San Diego Union Tribune as one of “Four Architects” in the city’s history that have made a difference. Selected one of the Top 50 Residential Architects in the US by Residential Architect Magazine. The Prospect was selected on of the Top 50 Residences of the past decade by Dwell Magazine.

David Burney, FAIA — Building Healthier Cities — By Design (1.5 LU HSW)
David J. Burney, FAIA was appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Design and Construction (“DDC”) in January 2004, by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. DDC manages capital projects for a variety of City agencies including the Departments of Transportation and Environmental Protection; and for the many cultural institutions such as libraries and museums that receive City capital funds. With Mayor Bloomberg’s support, David Burney launched a City-wide “Design and Construction Excellence Initiative” with the goal of raising the quality of design and construction of public works throughout New York City. Prior to joining DDC, Mr. Burney was Director of Design and Capital Improvement at the New York City Housing Authority where, in 2002, the agency was awarded a National Design Award Special Commendation by the Smithsonian Institute. From 1982 to 1990 Mr. Burney practiced architecture with the New York Firm of Davis Brody & Associates where he was involved in a variety of projects including the Zeckendorf Towers on Union Square and the Rose Building at Lincoln Center. Mr. Burney was educated at the Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and at the University of London. He was the recipient of the AIA NYC Chapter Public Architect Award in 1996 and received a Sloane Public Service Award in 2003.

Anne Fougeron, FAIA — Opposition/Composition (1.5 LU HSW)
Anne Fougeron, FAIA, is principal of Fougeron Architecture in San Francisco, California (www.fougeron.com). Born of French parents and raised in Paris and New York, she credits her bicultural upbringing as the source of her aesthetic values, which combine a respect for historic precedent with an interest in melding old and new. After earning a bachelor of arts degree in architectural history at Wellesley College and a master of architecture degree at the University of California, Berkeley, she worked for San Francisco architect and urban designer Daniel Solomon for three years, an experience that informed her awareness of the interplay between buildings and the urban environment. In 1986 she founded Fougeron Architecture and went on to design award-winning private- and public-sector projects in a decidedly modernist vocabulary. Fougeron has taught architectural design to undergraduate and graduate students at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco and the University of California, Berkeley, where she served as the Howard Friedman Visiting Professor of Professional Practice in the Department of Architecture from 2003 to 2004.

Meeting in the Mountains is going to be a great event! Hope to see you there!
Committee Updates:

- Economic Affairs Interim Committee Updates:
  - EAIC statement - the Economic Affairs Committee requests any licensees to please notify EAIC staff at 406-444-3594 or pmurdo@mt.gov if they consider their own or another board to be worthy of further scrutiny by the Economic Affairs Committee. Legislative staff has indicated that there is no guarantee of anonymity, so those who make a suggestion may be identified or asked to provide a rationale for the additional scrutiny.
  - Fees Commensurate with Costs - The Department will be preparing some contingency language for fees commensurate with costs at the request of the EAIC and will present that language at the March EAIC meeting. The focus of this effort is to provide reasonable language that aligns with the Boards operating cycles and need for contingency funds. This is in response to findings from the Legislative Auditor and the Department’s response to those findings.
  - Enterprise Funding - The Department will also present language on Enterprise funding to the EAIC. Enterprise funding allows fee based government services to operate on available revenue from fees and reserves and not on spending authority. A number of Boards have shown significant interest in the opportunity to move to Enterprise funding so the Department is preparing language to support those requests. If a Board supports a move to this funding type it would be valuable to attend the meeting to show your support for Enterprise funding.
  - Athletics Program - the EAIC decided to give this program until the July EAIC meeting to see if additional events help to bring the program out of the hole. I am not sure what options the EAIC is interested in seeing more about since many of the proposed solutions were in a bill http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2013/billpdf/SB0363.pdf that failed last session (longer time frames for health checks, less insurance coverage, etc.)

- Metrics Licensing Unit A - received 1,000 phone calls in one week with no major boards in renewal. This is a significant amount of phone calls for the 7 individuals in that unit on top of their other work to be done.

Applications Received:
- July – 1,235
- August – 1,276
- September – 1,026
- October – 1,225
- November – 1,209
- December – 1,550
- January – 1,201

Renewals - We estimate that we will receive and process 78,974 renewals in 2014.

Meetings:
- Total meetings FY12 – 406
- Total meetings FY13 – 451

Staff hours per Meeting:
- FY12 – 132.45
- FY13 – 123

Budget/Legislation requests - It is that time of year again when we are asked to begin to develop our legislative requests. The Division will be submitting its legislation wish list today and we will continue to work with the Boards to develop their wish lists. The process for Boards will be different this year, in that each Board will have an opportunity to present their requests directly to the Governor’s office. At this point and time, we’re looking at the first week of April and more specific information will be forthcoming to Board Chairs. Please begin to develop your requests now so that your Board is prepared for this opportunity.

Carpet and Paint - The remodeling of our floor is almost done. The new Executive Officer area is finished and is a wonderful space. The last remaining area to be completed is the large open area where both Licensing and Board Management staff work. We have coordinated with the contractors to try and do the majority of the work on the weekends but it is inevitable that this effort will cause some disturbances in our work. We have a good plan in place to mitigate any effect this may have on our customers, but please understand the situation we are in and be patient. This process should be complete by the end of March.

eBiz optimization - Progress continues to be made on the optimization of our licensing system. We have completed our internal analysis of our business processes and the corresponding requests of the provider for enhancements to the system. A Statement of Work will be provided by Accela and the Division will determine what efforts to take up first. We anticipate work beginning in the next month or so.
The AIA Mission Statement:
The American Institute of Architects is the voice of the architecture profession dedicated to serving its members, advancing their values and improving the quality of the built environment. Through a culture of innovation, the American Institute of Architects empowers its members and inspires creation of a better built environment.

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was founded on June 4, 1921.

From the AIA Montana Office

Grassroots 2014 is in session this week in Washington, DC. AIA Montana will be represented by Lisa Sukut—President, Ben Tintinger—Senior Director and Shannon Peterson—YAF Director for the NW+P Region. Capitol Hill visits have been scheduled for Thursday—March 20 with senior staff members of the Montana Congressional members. All will have more to report when they return. Hopefully—the snow will stop!

AIA Montana is taking AIA National’s recommendation into consideration before releasing the salary survey results. Their legal department is concerned that we may have inadvertently violated Anti-Trust Laws. The attorneys have made their recommendations. Associated Employers will respond to these concerns. Once the AIA Montana Board has all positions gathered, they will meet to decide how best to proceed.

Reminder: Call for Design Awards will be made in June with submissions due mid August for the 2014 Design Award Program. What projects will you submit?

Attached with this issue is the new price list for AIA Contract Documents for members. NOTE: Prices have gone up—SIGNIFICANTLY! Pricing for any documents not eligible for reprint have been held at prices reflecting actual costs when purchased by AIA Montana. Once the inventory of documents not eligible for reprint have been exhausted—members and non-members alike will have to purchase electronic versions. Pricing for electronic documents has been included on this price list.

The Meeting in the Mountains will be April 4th at the Northern Hotel in Billings, Montana. To register, please visit: www.aiabillings.org.

Thank You!
Connie