President’s Message:
AIA 2015 Fall Conference - Architecture a Look Inside

Klint Fisher, AIA, President of AIA Montana

The seasons are changing here in Montana. The air is crisp in the morning, the leaves are starting to turn, and there has been a dusting of snow in the high peaks. Fall has arrived, and that means many things to those of us from the Big Sky State: Archery season has opened, football weekends, and of course the AIA Montana Fall Conference!

Never during my five years serving on the AIA Montana Board, and attending the Fall Conference prior to that, have I been as excited for the conference as I am this year. Perhaps it is the new appreciation I have for the effort it takes to organize the event after serving as the chairperson last year, or just the relief that the planning is in the capable hands of the 2015 Chairperson Tad Tsukamoto, but this year’s Fall Conference promises to be the best yet.

The assembled lineup of speakers offers a fresh, diverse and challenging look into to the practice of architecture. In addition to their commitment to excellent design, each of the speakers offers insight into architecture’s role in the community and the importance of growing and managing a firm. I am excited not only by the diversity and expertise of this year’s presenters, but also for the opportunity those of us practicing here in Montana have to implement the lessons that they will share with us into our practice.

The 2015 Fall Conference will once again offer many opportunities in addition to outstanding speakers:

⇒ 2015 AIA Montana Design Awards Banquet - This year’s Awards Banquet will not only feature the AIA Montana Design Awards, but we will be sharing the evening with the AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Awards as well.

⇒ Visiting with Vendors - As always, our vendors will be presenting the latest in building materials and strategies. Don’t forget to visit our vendors and sign up for the cash giveaways!

⇒ AIA Montana General Membership Lunch Meeting - Catch up on the business of AIA Montana and enjoy a free lunch.

⇒ ARE Prep Seminar - Once again Nathan Gulash will be leading the ARE Prep seminar. Certainly a “Don’t Miss” for those preparing to take the licensing exams.

⇒ CEU Credits - Don’t forget that the State of Montana is now requirement continuing education. Get yours at the Fall Conference.

I hope the opportunities at the 2015 AIA Fall Conference have you all as excited as I am.

Register now and join us in Bozeman September 24th and 25th for the 2014 AIA Montana Fall Conference!

To register, visit http://aia-mt.org/events/fall-conference/
Architects Continuing Education Requirements - Montana

Linda Grief, Executive Officer, MT Board of Architects

The Montana Board of Architects and Landscape Architects has adopted a new rule requiring continuing education for architects. Below are some general questions with answers that will help guide licensees through the first year for the CE requirement.

**How many CE hours do I need?**
12 hours of continuing education

**When did the CE requirement start and how long do I have to complete the 12 hours?**
The CE requirement is based on a calendar year, beginning on January 1 and ending December 31 of each year.

**But if I renew by June 30, do I have to have the CE completed by then?**
No. You will need to renew like always completing all the requirements for renewal, but your 12 hours of CE is not due until December 31. It’s never too early to plan for your next CE requirement and make CE an ongoing process in your professional practice.

**Are there exemptions from the CE requirement, like new grads?**
Yes. Continuing education is not required for licensees renewing their licenses for the first time. In addition, licensees who have been granted emeritus or other similar honorific status are exempt from the CE requirements.

**If I am late renewing my license or let my license expire and now want to renew, do I have to have the 12 hours of CE?**
Yes. If a licensee does not file a timely renewal application and thereafter files a late renewal, the late renewal must contain documentary proof the licensee met the CE requirements incorporating the year prior to the renewal application year. All licensees reactivating expired licenses must submit documentary proof of meeting CE requirements required to become active.

**If I take more than 12 CE hours in the calendar year – can I use them for the next year?**
Sorry – No. You can only use the CE you completed between January 1 and December 31.

**What CE courses meet the requirements? Are courses approved by the Montana Board of Architects and Landscape Architects?**
At least 75 percent of any given course’s content and instructional time must be devoted to health, safety, and welfare subjects related to the practice of architecture. Many offerers meet the requirements. The Board does NOT approve individual courses or providers. See this rule: ARM 24.114.2105 Architect Continuing Education Requirements. This leaves a lot of choices for the licensee to choose what is most relevant to their continued competence development. That is the intent of the Board.

**Do I send my certificates of completion to the Board with my renewal?**
No – please keep your certificates in a safe place for yourself. Should you be selected for a random audit, you will need to provide the Board your certificates as PROOF that you completed the CE requirements.

**When will an audit take place and what will happen if I get audited?**
Beginning in 2016, an annual random audit will be conducted of all licensees for CE compliance. You will be notified by email or mail – so PLEASE keep your address and contact information up to date with the Board office. You will be asked to send in copies of your CE certificates to verify that you have completed the requirements.

**What if I did not complete the 12 hours of CE?**
Failure to comply with continuing education requirements may result in disciplinary action. BE PROACTIVE and MEET THE REQUIREMENT!

**How can I find the rules related to the CE requirement?**
The easiest way is to go to the Board’s website at www.architect.mt.gov then click on the “regulations” tab then click on “administrative rules” then click on Chapter 114 Board of Architects then click on 24.114.2105 Architect Continuing Education Requirements.

**I am still confused – who should I talk to if I have questions?**
You can call 841-2300 and ask for the “Audit Unit” or email your questions to dlibsdarc@mt.gov.

Richard Shanahan, AIA, AIA MT SGN Representative

This meeting marked the 25th anniversary SGN meeting as part of the American Institute of Architects.

Yvonne R. Castillo, Esq. Senior Director, Business & Practice Policy form the National AIA, made some opening remarks on SGN and the significance of practicing architect members’ contributions and suggestions for National AIA leadership. These have proved to be very valuable to the organization.

Robert Ivy opened the meeting speaking about reorganization and repositioning to make the AIA more effective. National AIA has started a national advertising campaign on PBS and other national outlets.

1. Architect - Challenging to get the message out and across,” Architecture Matters!”
2. National and States need to work together to make the public aware of “What Architects Do.”
3. Need Advocacy - Architects need to build a “Culture of Advocacy” with state and National legislative bodies.
   a. State and National need to work better together to achieve our goals.
   b. Find ways to work better and smarter.

Several topics were presented and discussed at the SGN meeting.

Emerging Policy - Zack Hart discussed the review process - This can be on both state and National levels. Stake holders review the policy issue, make a Position Statement - Attempt to be as positive as possible. Issue the Position Statement.

Interior Design - A number of states are battling legislative attempts by Interior Designers to limit the architects function and to select and control interior of a project. Interior Designers are attempting to perform or limit architectural interior service. The recommendation is give a definition of what Interior Designers are allowed to design in the building process. Architects and Engineers are the only building professional licensed by exam for buildings.

Project Delivery Systems -
- QBS - This Selective Project method is being attacked throughout or in many areas of the Country!! Laymen lawmaker who don’t know how architects practice or work are trying to reform the process. They relate us to contractors and feel we should bid for projects or be selected on price. This has been an issue for some time, Architects need to educate the public on our professional services. Need to be selected based on qualifications for the project.
- CM at Risk - Select the Architect independently via QBS then select Contractor through an interview process. This leaves the design to the Architect and the costing and construction management. This gets the design desired at the cost owner has budgeted. (No surprises for clients or Municipal governments in Montana.) I did share this information with the attendees at SGN.
- P3 - Private / Public partnerships to implement and complete projects. This is still the taxpayer paying for the projects. They may pay by a lease, rent tolls or some method of payment to a private entity over a period of time for the project. The Architect often is not in a lead position and sometimes does not have contact with the client. This system is usually implemented for projects of 100 million and up. The state of Georgia is using P3 delivery system of 1 billion dollars for Horizontal Projects of roads, bridges, water plants etc. P3 contracts are used in Canada, England and Australia. P3 contracts are mostly pushed by developers with strong capital backing. P3 contracts will be coming to every State. This can be a good tool to have in the tool box.
- Design Competitions: Competitions have been around for a very long time. They started in Britain in 1839 and were a three stage process. Alaska has a number of competition along the way with the most recent being for a new State Capital Building. They suggested the need for a Key Advisor typically an architect or a person familiar with architectural practice and the architectural profession. They suggest the completion be modeled after GSA competition procedures. It also is advisable to offer some compensation to the finalist. In the Alaska New Capital Building competition a winner was chosen but no Structure was ever constructed. This was due to economic and many other reason. It is very unfortunate to go through all effort and expenses and not have a building.

NCARB - New CEO gave a report on what is happening at NCARB. Licensing Trends - The Architectural Registration Exam 5.0 is being revised and will be composed of 6 divisions in lieu of 7 divisions. This will be implemented in July of 2016. The 6 Practice -based experience area will align with the examination. All aspects of the profession will aligned with each section to be more like actual office practice. NCARB will allow early access to testing during the later year(s) of architectural schooling. IPD will be streamlined to 3740 core hours. It is considering a minimum of two years’ experience before issuing architectural license. Three years has been the traditional experience requirements. Currently AIT are taking 5+/ years to become a licensed Architect. The hope is to reduce this time line 3+/ years for licensure. This is an attempt to help equalize the cost of architectural education with professional compensation. Standard Continuing Education for Health, Safety & Welfare units are required to maintain licenses. NCARB is also reorganizing and streamlining its organization to better serve membership and the profession.

AIA can’t endorse a position or make a position statement on LEED or Green Globes etc. AIA does endorse sustainable energy efficient design and construction practices. LEED has become an issue in some States.

Historic Preservation - AIA supports the Historic Preservation Tax Credits as very important for projects and must be maintained. Best way for Federal Government to generate good tax paying projects. Projects that benefit everyone.

National AIA wants Advocacy Leaders identified in every State to grow in strength. Get people involved early and become leaders.
More Fall Conference News - ARE Prep Seminar

Nathan Gulash, AIA from AIA Colorado will again offer the ARE Prep Seminar on Friday—September 25 for a full day. This year he will cover:

♦ Schematic Design—2 Hours
♦ Building & Construction Systems—3 Hours
♦ Building Systems—3 Hours

In addition to these sections, those that attend will be given an opportunity to take part in AIA Colorado’s new Structures Webinar – if interested.

The ARE Prep Seminar is offered as a TRACK OPTION within the regular Fall Conference registration rate for $150 or there is the option to take the ARE Prep Seminar ONLY option for $75.00. The ARE Prep Seminar ONLY option will include the Seminar and lunch on Friday. MSU/SOA Students will have to pay $75 to participate.
The AIA Mission Statement:
The American Institute of Architects is the voice of the architecture profession dedicated to serving it 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.

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

From the AIA Montana Office

The Northwest & Pacific Region’s 2015 Leadership Summit will be September 23 in Bozeman, Montana. This is where the leadership of the Region comes together to conduct the business of the Region. After this long day, there will be a “Region Meets Montana Social” at the Baxter Hotel Ballroom from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm and ALL are WELCOME! There will be coach rides provided to and from the GranTree. Come help us welcome the Region to Montana!

The Fall Conference will be kicked off with breakfast hosted by the School of Architect on Thursday at 7:30 am. Make a kick stop at the registration desk and head down to meet Ralph Johnson, Interim Director and other staff from the School before we kickoff the 2015 Fall Conference.

At noon, AIA Montana will conduct a general membership meeting with lunch. All are welcome! You do not miss this as a new program to promote member’s work on several social media platforms with one upload will be unveiled.

This year’s Awards Reception and Banquet will be on Thursday—September 24. The reception will be at Cheever Hall and Banquet will be in the newly remodeled Ballroom A at the SUB. The evening will feature not only AIA Montana Design Awards but those made by the Region.

Friday will feature the Trade Show with 40+ exhibitors with CASH RAFFLEs at each booth, breaks, speakers and LU/HSW units, ARE Prep Seminar and lunch. This is packed conference—don’t miss it!

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