President’s Message:

Tad Tsukamoto, AIA, President of AIA Montana

I look forward to representing AIA Montana this year and one of my main objectives is to hear from many of you. I want to be a good listener and understand issues you are facing with your profession. The building industry is booming in Montana and everyone I talk to seems to have an overabundance of work and are facing the challenges that come with it including short supply of experienced help, rising construction costs and schedule delays to name just a few. If you have something on your mind please feel free to reach out to me and the other board members. We are here to serve you. I hope to see many of you at Meeting in the Mountains hosted by the Billings Architectural Association on April 7-9 at the Northern Hotel in Billings and our Annual State Fall Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs on September 28-30. In addition to these local events, I will be traveling to national and regional leadership conferences on your behalf where I hope to gain a better understanding of the issues and ideal methods of apply the knowledge gained to challenges we face here in Montana. I will be attending the AIA National Convention in Philadelphia (May 19-21), Grassroots Legislative Conference in Washington, DC (July 13 -15) and the Northwest + Pacific Regional Leadership Summit with Alaska State Conference in Fairbanks (November 3-5).

I want to thank our Immediate Past President, Klint Fisher for handing me the reigns and for his years of service and leadership for AIA Montana. Following in his footsteps, I learned a lot about the duties and responsibilities of serving on the board and recognize and appreciate the positive impact he made on me and our profession.

Traditionally this first quarter newsletter would include a report on Grassroots. I attended Grassroots for the first time last year and I have to say it was a powerful and inspiring experience to visit our nation’s capital and to see and participate in the legislative process first hand. However, this year, for the first time Grassroots has been separated into two events. The first being Leadership held in Detroit in February focusing on building leadership skills and the second being Legislative in Washington, DC in July with a focus on advocacy training. There was a lot of opposition to this change as many felt the single conference format was effective and efficient. A second conference, for most components and volunteer leadership, is too costly and time prohibitive. AIA Montana felt the same and decided as a board, not attend the February conference in Detroit. At this time we anticipate and hope that Grassroots will go back to a single conference format in Washington, DC in 2017. This is a view shared by many of my predecessors and one of the many reasons that the AIA Montana Board would like to see Grassroots return to its original format.

Thank you for this opportunity. See you at the Meeting in the Mountains!

We Need Some More Prayers

Three years ago, our Lobbyists Jennifer and Darryl James’ daughter Vivian (then age 5) had to fight cancer. The doctors and everyone thought the fight was over but just this month, the news that it had returned was received. Vivian needs our prayers again as she begins the new fight against this cruel and persistent foe. When I asked what we could do, Darryl shared the following:

“Vivian and Jennifer love to get cards and letters, notes of encouragement, photos, quotes, scriptures and meditations. Please feel free to send any of those to our new digs in Seattle. But, PLEASE RESIST the urge to send stuffed animals, toys, games, and green bean casseroles. We are quickly settling into a cute little condo within walking distance of the hospital, and the girls will appreciate finding notes in the mailbox soon. Vivian L. James 5048 44th Avenue NE, #2 Seattle, WA 98105

As with the last time, I’ll need to be in Helena for work, and we want to keep Stone in school and in as regular a routine as we can provide for him. Jennifer and I will swap back and forth between Helena and Seattle every few weeks, so our travel expenses will be notable. Anything you wish to do to help in that regard is appreciated, but not expected. If you feel the need to do something, rather than spending $10.00 on a gift at Target, we would appreciate contributions to our travel fund. (Contributions should be made out to: Pinwheel Project and mailed to LIFE Covenant Church; 800 North Hoback Street; Helena, MT 59601).

Let’s not leave Stone out in Helena either! You can mail cards & letters to:
Vivian L. James 5048 44th Avenue NE, #2 Seattle, WA 98105

More than anything else, we request that you continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. That means more than anything else. Thank you!”
Public work contracts in some states reference the Anti-Kickback Act of 1986 and require that the architect and/or contractor certifies and warrants that no gratuities, kickbacks, or contingency fees were paid in connection with the contract, nor were any fees, commissions, gifts, or other considerations made contingent upon the award of the contract.

Shane Jacobs, AIA, Secretary / Treasurer for AIA MT

As work picks up and architects around the state look to expand their portfolios, there are many things to consider as you build your team and pursue public work. In the throes of an architect’s busy lifestyle, we look to efficiencies gained from experiences and relationships forged on the distilled content that is reflected in our portfolios of past work. Rather than reinventing the wheel on each project, we turn to our rolodex of proven consultants, specialists, suppliers, and systems representatives to begin shaping our clients’ visions. The modern building industry has evolved, specialized, and fragmented since the initial master builder concept evolved the simple division of design and construction services. Each side of the equation has several resources, vendors, specialists, suppliers, systems representatives, and subcontractors.

As architects, we lean on these folks because projects run at an increasingly faster rate and it is a challenge to stay on top of an ever-evolving market of building systems and materials. Some supplier/installer consultants offer design services as well, which confuses things and puts architects at risk when they look to the construction side of the aisle for design services on a publicly funded project. In the case of privately funded projects, clients and their architect have more latitude to do as they please with the project funding and in those instances, the client is probably unaware that the products or systems designed by the vendor or subcontractor are sole-sourced and they are losing their competitive bidding leverage with regards to that component of their project. Unbeknownst to some of our membership, the situation is worsened, illegal, and unethical when the funds for the project are sourced publicly and part of the design and specifications are influenced by equipment selections that align the dealer with the final contract for construction services. These services commonly include: door hardware specifications, prefabricated steel building design, kitchen equipment/food service design, fire sprinkler system design, lighting design, design of temperature controls, and the list goes on... Our industry needs to do a better job informing the architectural community and an AIA Montana newsletter is a great forum to start.

A consultant’s independent services provide a vital part of the advanced design as well as a checks and balances element to make sure that the original intent is achieved for the tax payers. As part of the design team, this consultant service begins to address the prime contract’s compliance with a myriad of laws, rules, and codes as well. Many equipment dealers or representatives are tied exclusively to the supply side of the industry. Through buying group alliances, they are driven by which equipment best meets their needs and not necessarily the customer’s. Equipment dealers are often times influenced by a spiff, or spiv; an immediate bonus for a sale. Typically, spiffs are paid either by a manufacturer or employer, directly to a salesperson for selling a specific product.

Public work contracts in some states reference the Anti-Kickback Act of 1986 and require that the architect and/or contractor certifies and warrants that no gratuities, kickbacks, or contingency fees were paid in connection with the contract, nor were any fees, commissions, gifts, or other considerations made contingent upon the award of the contract. If the architect breaches or violates this warranty, the owner may, at its discretion, terminate the contract without liability to the owner, or deduct from the contract price or consideration, or otherwise recover the full amount of any commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingency fee. The AIA Code of Ethics has similar language, but is not as specific. Rule 2.103 - Members serving in a public capacity shall not accept payments or gifts which are intended to influence their judgment

With AIA Montana members being the prime contract for most of their work, we should also be aware of instances where some components of the teams we collectively bring to the table as architects, might have a conflict of interest or might technically be receiving a kickback if the work they design is not being competitively bid and they are ultimately vending and installing it as a sole-sourced product. Sole sourcing material on public projects has limitations defined in the ARM rules and MCA; limiting the procurement amount to $5000 and allowance in only a few specific instances.

Beyond the sole-source aspect, Montana Code Annotated prohibits the purchase of materials or supplies for construction, repair, or maintenance in excess of $80,000 without being advertised, competitively bid, and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. It also goes on to prohibit the division of contracts to circumvent this bidding requirement.

You can begin to see the risk exposure associated with having the wrong team composition when you are considering a specialist for some design influence that might land outside of your comfort zone or experience and they don’t have the ability to provide information in a way that can be competitively bid by multiple contractors and vendors. Of the many duties we have to our clients, firms, employees, and profession, let’s be sure that we are selecting the correct team members and taking a moment to assure that our design service delivery is meeting the intent of MCA, ARM, AIA Rules of Conduct, and other applicable laws and codes. I urge our members to seek out consultants that can operate within these guidelines as well. Happy designing!
Goodbye IDP and ARE 4.0

Shannon Christensen, AIA, Architect Licensing Advisor for AIA Montana

NCARB has been busy the beginning of 2016 preparing for the updates to IDP and the ARE that go into effect later this year. Major changes include renaming IDP and the transition from ARE 4.0 to 5.0.

NCARB announced in January that as part of a push to retire the term “intern,” the Intern Development Program (IDP) will be renamed the Architectural Experience Program (AXP), effective June 29, 2016. The program’s new name will carry an important caveat: “formerly known as IDP.” This will accommodate existing state laws or rules that refer to the programs current name so state licensing boards do not need to make any changes.

NCARB will also be launching an overhauled version of IDP/AXP at the same time as the renaming. As part of this change, the current 17 IDP experience areas will be realigned into 6 broad practice areas: Practice Management, Project Management, Programming & Analysis, Project Planning & Design, Project Development & Documentation, and Construction & Evaluation. To help with this transition, NCARB has released an online IDP Experience Calculator for aspiring architects to see how their hours will merge into the new areas. Also as part of the overhaul, IDP/AXP will only have two experience settings. Setting A: Practice of Architecture will remain the same with a minimum of 1,860 hours required in this setting. Setting O will incorporate a number of existing supplemental experience opportunities such as other work settings, construction related employment, site visits with a mentor, and AIA HSW Continuing Education. If you previously received an exemption from having to satisfy current experience area requirements when IDP 2.0 launched in 2012, they will not carry over when the new program goes into effect on June 29.

NCARB is launching the final stages of exam development and testing this spring to prepare for the rollout of ARE 5.0 in late 2016. The new ARE 5.0 will feature six exam divisions that more closely align with architectural practice and match the new IDP/AXP practice areas. If you’d like to find out more about the content of each exam, you can download the ARE 5.0 Test Specification. Each division will include between 80 to 120 questions. The questions will include new types such as hot spots, drag and drop, and case studies. Multiple choice, check-all-that-apply, and quantitative fill-in-the-black will continue to be used. However, vignettes will not be included in ARE 5.0. Test durations vary from 2 hours 45 minutes to 4 hours 15 minutes. Most importantly, aspiring architects should remember that they are able to self-transition to ARE 5.0 as ARE 4.0 will be available until June 30, 2018.

You are welcome to reach out to me at shannonc@ctagroup.com if you have any questions on IDP/AXP, ARE 4.0 or 5.0, any other NCARB programs, or your specific situation or if you would like me to give a presentation to aspiring architects and supervisors in your office.

2016 AIA MT Fall Conference: Fairmont in September

Ben Tintinger, AIA , President Elect and Conference Chair

You can’t miss it! Besides fulfilling your required education requirements for state licensing, the Fall Conference will be an incredible opportunity to connect with friends, get a little recreation in, and find inspiration for that new project on your desk. Located at the newly remodeled Fairmont Hot Springs, enjoy a round of golf, a drink in the hot pool, challenge another office in frisbee golf, or pet a goat! So, when is the last time that the Montana AIA conference has been held at a Montana icon, family fun resort? This is a first! So bring the whole family!

On top of that, we will be spending the Thursday evening reception and awards banquet in historic Uptown Butte at the newly completed NorthWestern Energy Building! Again, when was the last time AIA Montana was in Butte? It’s definitely been a while, and a lot of things have changed in Uptown Butte, including numerous new restaurants, breweries, and a Montana’s leading distillery.

So what could be better than that? How about bringing back the Montana Masonry Awards! That’s right, get your submissions in for the awards program, complete with food and beverages, on Wednesday night at Fairmont. The call for entries is out now with registration due May 1st and submissions due July 1st!

And that’s not all! Great Architectural Conversations will be an opportunity to dine with an expert and exchange experiences during the banquet dinner prior to the design awards ceremony on Thursday night.

This year’s theme will be ‘Brick by Brick’. The 2016 AIA Montana Annual Fall Conference will, literally and figuratively, explore the process and craft of assembling the pieces and parts that become the built expression of that initial vision. From putting together the right team to telling the story through design, each project we undertake is a unique set of collaborations, explorations, research, selections, detailing and implementations. The ever increasing complexity of those visions require skills in organization and a reliance on many specialized team members. The trend for an integrated approach to design and decision making is resulting in some of the most inspiring projects of our time.

So don’t miss out! We look forward to seeing you there. More event information will be coming soon.

“NCARB announced in January that as part of a push to retire the term “intern,” the Intern Development Program (IDP) will be renamed the Architectural Experience Program (AXP), effective June 29, 2016.”

“The 2016 AIA Montana Annual Fall Conference will, literally and figuratively, explore the process and craft of assembling the pieces and parts that become the built expression of that initial vision.”
GET YOUR TICKET TODAY!! The BAA has invested proceeds from last year's event to create a new website to make reserving your spot easier than ever.

Go to, https://aiabillings.org/meeting-in-the-mountains/ and reserve your spot today! Payments this year are electronic only and will only be made thru the website.
WHEN? The 2016 Meeting in the Mountains will be happening **April 7th thru April 9th**. The main event and exhibition hall will open up at 7:00 am on April 8th, but CEU seminars are planned for the entire day on April 7th (Thursday) and April 9th (Saturday).

WHERE? This year’s event has been scheduled on the second floor of The Northern Hotel in Downtown Billings, MT. [www.northernhotel.com](http://www.northernhotel.com)

COSTS? $125 per ticket gets you into ALL 3 days of the Meeting as well as a dinner ticket to the awards banquet, cocktail hour on Friday night, and your 2016 membership to the B.A.A.

SPEAKERS & CEUs? **FOUR SPEAKERS THIS YEAR!** We have secured some truly amazing talent from across the United States for the main event on April 8th. Attendees will be able to get ALL of their Continuing Education Units accounted for in this 3-day event.

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### 4/8/16 – MARLON BLACKWELL ARCHITECTS

Fayetteville, AR

**MARLON BLACKWELL, FAIA, USA Ford Fellow,** is a practicing architect in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and serves as the E. Fay Jones Distinguished Professor in Architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. He served as Department Head from 2009 – 2013. He was named among the “30 Most Admired Educators” by DesignIntelligence in 2015. Work produced in his professional office, Marlon Blackwell Architects, has received national and international recognition with numerous design awards and significant publication in books, architectural journals and magazines. Blackwell was selected as a United States Arts Ford Fellow in 2014 and received the 2012 Architecture Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A monograph of his early work, “An Architecture of the Ozarks: The Works of Marlon Blackwell”, was published by Princeton Architectural Press in 2005. He was selected by The International Design Magazine, in 2006, as one of the ID Forty: Undersung Heroes and as an “Emerging Voice” in 1998 by the Architectural League of New York.

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### 4/8/16 – SKYLAB ARCHITECTURE

Portland, OR

**JEFF KOVEL, AIA** has created engaging and immersive spaces over the past two decades. In 1999, he founded Skylab as a laboratory to develop and build progressive architecture. His creativity works to mix the distinction between architecture and design, blur the lines between the natural and constructed, and parcel together the future with the past. Jeff’s work in Portland has merged conceptual design with sustainable building goals, winning numerous AIA awards, including the AIA Sustainability Award. Jeff brings to each project creative leadership to merge the program and budget while pushing the boundaries to create unique and engaging built environments.

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### 4/8/16 – ShO P ARCHITECTURE

New York, NY

**CHRISTOPHER SHARPLES, AIA** is a founding partner of ShO P Architects. He has held integral roles on seminal ShO P projects such as Barclays Center, East River Waterfront, Uber Headquarters, SITE Santa Fe and Fashion Institute of Technology. Christopher has been instrumental in integrating cultural projects into the urban environment. He has held teaching positions at Cornell University, Parsons School of Design, Yale University, The City College of New York, Columbia University, and the University of Virginia and lectures internationally.

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### 4/8/16 – CHARRETTE VENTURE GROUP

Grinnell, IA

Charrette Venture Group serves as an advisor that helps growing design firms and entrepreneurs better understand the “business” of Architecture.

**TODD L. REDING** has served in many roles in both the private sector and non-profit organizations. While serving as the Vice President for Alumni and Development at Grinnell College, he earned an MBA from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. He was named the President and CEO of ASI Signage Innovations in 2008 and in 2011 he was among the first employees of the software startup, FunnelWise. Today he remains a senior advisor to the company, while also serving in his role at Charrette Venture Group. Todd is also an Adjunct Lecturer on Entrepreneurialism at the University of Iowa and chair of the board of trustees of Grinnell Regional Medical Center.
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

Many of you have submitted projects to showcase your firm’s work on the AIA Montana website—check it out at http://aia-mt.org/featured-projects/. This is a wonderful way to share your work. Every 10 days or so, Massive gathers up some of the projects for posting to the AIA Montana Facebook page. The Facebook postings are well received and the numbers being reached is growing with every post. The form to submit your project can be found on the ‘Member’ side of the website and has been attached with this newsletter. AIA Montana members can be proud of their work—impressive!

For planning purposes, AIA Montana Design Award Program will be announced in the 2nd Quarter Newsletter with submittals due mid-August. This program is independent of the Masonry Industry Promotion Groups’ 2016 Montana Masonry Awards. Hopefully you are planning to submit entries for both!

I know that many of you are very busy but you will only be getting busier as the summer construction season gets underway. Now is the time to get those HSW learning units earned and on your transcript prior to the July licensing renewal. You can earn these at the Meeting in the Mountains on April 7-9—more information on pages 4 & 5. The sidebar with this article lists even more opportunities to wrap these up. Remember—the State of Montana does not offer any grace period. You must have 12 HSW credits done to renew your license.

I have planned a ‘once-in-lifetime’ trip to New Zealand, Australia and Fiji and will be leaving on March 18 and returning on April 10. The office will be open on limited hours with a former employee taking care of day-to-day items such as document orders, etc. I apologize in advance for any inconveniences this might cause and I will be happy to take care of these on my return. Please remember that any of your AIA Board Members and AIA National are available to help. If you have any recommendations of sights, activities, etc., I’ll take those!!!

Thank You!
Connie
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