Tad Tsukamoto, AIA, President of AIA Montana

It’s been several years since I’ve been to an AIA National Convention but as soon as I arrived at the convention center I felt the energy and anticipation of what a great experience National can be. “Imagine a” was this year’s theme and it certainly offered a lot of “a” by offering hundreds of learning opportunities, vendors, tours and noteworthy speakers in and around the industry. With a little ambition and comfortable shoes you could find something interesting to engage in all day and long into the evening. My favorite session was listening to Arthur Gensler talk about how he built his firm of 2 into a firm of over 5000 people with offices around the world. It was truly inspiring and I’ve just opened the pages of his new book which I anticipate will reveal more of the story. I explored the acres of vendor booths and was able to see and learn about many new and innovative products. Technology and high tech synthetics came to the forefront for me. I also took a few hours away from the convention to walk through the nearby residential neighborhoods as I enjoy finding the creativity people come up with when living in a dense urban environment.

For those of you who know me, you know that I’m more comfortable in smaller setting. Thus with over 20,000 people in attendance, I thought I would get lost in the crowd. But every day I ran into colleagues from Montana and all over the country and coupled with the new people I met made the event even more enjoyable. I highly encourage all of you to attend a National conference as they offer countless opportunities and it is truly a valuable experience.

Being a delegate for the first I found the electoral process to be an interesting and educational experience. We were given packets of information on the candidates beforehand but being in the presence of and hearing the candidates first hand made a big difference in determining who received our votes. Carl Elefante, FAIA, from AIA Potomac Valley (Maryland) was elected 2017 AIA First Vice President; 2018 President, Peter Exley, FAIA, from AIA Chicago was elected At-large Director; and Bruce Sekanick, AIA, from AIA Eastern Ohio was elected Secretary. I believe all three will serve as great leaders and continue to work in the best interest of the AIA and its members.

I wanted to thank the Billings Architectural Association for hosting Meeting in the Mountains in April. Once again the BAA did an outstanding job of putting together a great event!

Next I’m headed to Washington DC in July with our Secretary/Treasurer Shane Jacobs to attend the Speak Up AIA Advocacy and Action Event where we will receive legislative and political advocacy training to help us be more effective at speaking up for our profession at the federal, state and local levels. It promises to be a very educational experience and I look forward to it.

Can You Help in Raising Travel Funds for Vivian?

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 past February, the news that it had returned was received. Vivian needs our prayers as she continues the new fight against this cruel and persistent foe.

Vivian is now facing a stepped up chemotherapy program in an effort to put down her cancer. These treatments are in Seattle. The James are making an effort to get her back home between treatments as often as possible. Home is where everyone wants to be! Travel is something insurance does not cover.

Vivian’s school and the James family and friends have held fund raisers to help off set this mounting travel expenses. I would like to think that AIA Montana counts as a friend to the Vivian, Jennifer, Darryl and Stone James.

I am mailing a check for $25 today and challenge each and every member & friend of AIA Montana to do the same! Contributions should be made out to: Pinwheel Project and mailed to LIFE Covenant Church; 800 North Hoback Street; Helena, MT 59601.

Please keep Vivian and the James’ in your thoughts and prayers.
The AIA Montana newsletter: Setting O.

“All aspiring architects should review their saved reports prior to June 29 as reports that are not submitted may be affected by the transition.”

**Call for AIA Montana 2016 Design Award Submittals**

Sophia Sparklin, AIA, Senior Director & Design Award Chair

Help us showcase your work by submitting for the 2016 AIA Montana Design Awards. Our new online submission system allows you to get started with a greatly simplified submission process today, while allowing edits as needed for the next two months. No postage, CD burning, or hard copies necessary! This year’s cut-off time for finalized submittals and edits is August 11, 2016 at 3:00 pm. The entry fee for each submittal is $150 (unchanged), payable by credit card online. Any built projects by AIA Montana member firms or individual AIA MT members, completed since January 1st 2012 are eligible, whether located inside or outside of Montana.

I am excited to introduce this year’s jury. Based in Arizona, the 2016 AIA MT Design Award Jury is headed by John Kane, FAIA with Architekton. Jurors include Phil Weddle, FAIA with Weddle Gilmore, Diane Jacobs, AIA with Holly Street Studio, Ed Soltero, FAIA, Campus Architect with Arizona State University, and Rachel Rasmussen, AIA with Architekton.

Help us spread the word of the great architecture created by Montana firms and architects. All winning entries will be recognized at the Awards Banquet in Butte, MT on 9/29/2016, as part of the 2016 AIA MT Fall Conference. AIA Montana will make every effort to promote the winners. Each winner will be given a 2-page spread in the annual Montana Architect Magazine, on the opening page of the AIA Montana website, on poster board exhibit and it’s dedicated Social Media Campaign to the public.

**NCARB to Launch AXP on June 29**

Shannon Christensen, AIA, Architect Licensing Advisor for AIA Montana

On June 29, 2016, the Intern Development Program (IDP) will transition to the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) and updated to reflect current architectural practice. All aspiring architects should review their saved reports prior to June 29 as reports that are not submitted may be affected by the transition. The IDP Experience Calculator allows you to see how your current hours will transition to the new areas and the Experience Area Map will help you plan how you will earn hours moving forward. The reporting system will be temporarily offline on June 29.

The IDP’s current 17 experience areas will be realigned into six broad practice areas: Practice Management, Project Management, Programming & Analysis, Project Planning & Design, Project Development & Documentation, and Construction & Evaluation. Those following the ARE 5.0 transition will notice that these areas align with the new exam divisions. NCARB has been highlighting each of the experience areas on their blog at [http://blog.ncarb.org](http://blog.ncarb.org), beginning with Practice Management in December and finishing with Construction & Evaluation in May.

The AXP will have two experience settings as described in the last AIA Montana newsletter: Setting A: Practice of Architecture and Setting O: Other Experiences. Several of the existing supplemental experience opportunities that currently fall under Setting S will be incorporated in Setting O. However, a few opportunities, including Leadership and Service, GBCI LEED AP accreditation, and advance degrees, will no longer be eligible after the update so aspiring architects should take the opportunity to report this experience before June 29.

A new e-Portfolio option will also be incorporated in the AXP. This alternative reporting through an online portfolio will allow eligible aspiring architects with comprehensive experience beyond five years to satisfy the AXP’s experience requirements. To be eligible, record holders must be able to document two years of experience that is older than five years. This is a great opportunity for professionals who put licensure on hold. More information on this option can be found at [http://www.ncarb.org/News-and-Events/News/2016/MarePortfolio.aspx](http://www.ncarb.org/News-and-Events/News/2016/MarePortfolio.aspx).

If you have any questions on the AXP or if you would like me to give a presentation to aspiring architects and supervisors in your office please contact me at shannons@ctagroup.com.
2016 AIA MT Fall Conference: Fairmont in September

Ben Tintinger, AIA, President Elect and Conference Chair

So, do you have it on your calendar? Registration will be available soon. You can’t miss being at Fairmont this fall for the Montana AIA Conference! We’re expecting a BIG turnout. This year’s conference is shaping up to be not only a whole lot of fun, but also, inspiring, informative interesting, inquisitive, integrated and instructive.

For those really looking to build your learning unit total, we will start on Wednesday afternoon with a four-hour seminar on building through Net-Zero-Energy concepts. This seminar will be offered by the International Living Future Institute and will provide 4 HSW learning units.

Wednesday evening will feature the Montana Masonry Design Awards program. The program is sponsored by the Masonry Industry Promotion Group from Spokane. You may recall the awards event from four years ago when they put on a fantastic program complete with food and drink.

Thursday will be spent fulfilling your required education requirements for state licensing while having fun at the same time. Speakers John Kane, FAIA Principal of Architekton, and Artist Robert Harrison will discuss campus planning and brick in architecture. Bill Zahner, CEO of Zahner Fabrication will talk about the intricacies of high end design and fabrication in some of the most complex projects in the world (Look it up. You’ll be impressed!). We will hold the annual General Membership meeting over the lunch hour.

After a day of learning, we will take coaches to uptown Butte for the Thursday evening reception and awards banquet. Pre-banquets stops will include Headframe Distillery and/or Muddy Creek Brewery before heading to the newly completed NorthWestern Energy Building! The reception will include tours to the fifth floor before being seated for the dinner.

The banquet will begin with Great Architectural Conversations. You will have the opportunity to dine with an expert, exchange experiences and earn a learning unit during the dinner prior to the design awards ceremony. The design awards presentation will follow dinner (see Sophia’s article in this newsletter about making your submission to this event).

We’ll continue on Friday with presentations from Arne Emerson, Principal of Morphosis, Craig Vickers of CIVITAS, landscape architecture, and Paul Erickson’s MEP view of energy and water conservation in MSU’s new engineering building. Another track option on Friday will be the ARE Prep Seminar with Nathan Galush for those on the road to licensure. In addition to the sessions, there will be vendors in the exhibit area ready to showcase their latest products and services throughout the day – breaks and ‘walking vendor lunch’ with the CASH raffle tickets! Each booth will be giving away $50.00! Potential Vendors: If your name is not on the list, be sure to get signed up soon as spaces are going quickly!

This year’s theme, ‘Brick by Brick’ will 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.

“Brick by Brick”

Exhibitors for 2016:
- Cold Spring USA
- Sanderson Stewart
- Dundas Interiors
- Vaproshield
- PPG Architectural Finishes
- Northwest Factory Finishes
- Robert Peccia & Associates
- Missoula Concrete Construction
- Minot Builders Supply
- Roseburg
- Earth Elements Design Center
- J2 Business Products
- Marks Lumber
- Schluter Systems
- GRAPHISOFT
- WoodWorks
- Allegion
- Montana Plan Exchange
- Glo European Windows
- Boise Cascade
- T & A Supply
- Sierra Pacific Windows
- Malisani, Inc.
- Big Sky Insulation
- Pentair Thermal Building Solutions
- NorthWestern Energy

Potential Vendors: If your name is not on the list, be sure to get signed up soon as spaces are going quickly!
Gardiner School District RFQ—USGBC MT LEEDv4 EBOM K-12 Pilot Program LEED Consultant

The Gardiner School District is soliciting for qualifications from responsible organizations/firms/individuals to lead the Gardiner Public School building through the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Rating System, LEED v4: Existing Building Operations and Maintenance (O+M) certification process. Joint ventures are permitted and encouraged.

For a complete Program Overview, see the copy of the RFQ that went out as an attachment with this newsletter. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide a scalable model and unique case study on the certification process to better understand the issues facing Montana public schools as they pursue LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance certification, including a Cost-Benefit analysis of achieving certification for this pilot project. The Gardiner School District project will focus on the unique attributes of the school and will identify the highest impact and most cost effective means for achieving certification. This pilot will serve to inform key decision makers, local and regional schools, governments, and the building and design communities about the steps necessary for undertaking green school retrofits on a larger scale. The findings of the pilot program are anticipated to help encourage other Montana schools to pursue LEED certification.

Proposals are due June 30.

Billings Public Library Receives AIA National Library Award

AIA National presented 7 awards to libraries this year and the Billings Public Library received one of those awards as reported in Dezeen Daily in April:

As the only public library serving Montana’s largest metropolitan area, Billings Public Library stands in the urban heart of the community. The 66,000-square-foot library (6,130-square-metre) draws from the geologic uniqueness of the surrounding landscape while creating a radiant atmosphere full of natural light.

Day or night, the subtle transparency and glow of the grand reading room casts the library as a warm and inviting pavilion of public purpose to anchor to the northern edge of downtown Billings.

Designed with community input, the library carries sunlight and shadow with unexpected reflections and connects visually to the horizon. The library is a touchstone of sustainable design practices with its LEED Platinum certification.

The project was also featured in the June media issue of Architect – The Journal of the American Institute of Architects.
Protecting your relationships.

In the design and construction industry, there is no better way to protect your relationships than by using AIA Contract Documents. As the Industry Standard for over 120 years, our pre-drafted agreements and forms define the relationships and terms involved in your project, ensuring all parties are aware of expectations. Developed with input from key stakeholders, and recognized by courts across the country, AIA Contract Documents protect your project from start to finish.

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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.

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

From the AIA Montana Office

Member Scott Hedglin (architecture118) asked why AIA does not leverage some pricing relief for AIA members with Autodesk and other companies that architects routinely use. AIA National reported back the following:

The AIA and Autodesk are working together to ensure that small firms have the resources they need to be successful. As part of Autodesk becoming an AIA Strategic Partner, the software designer is providing AIA members with a special 25 percent discount on a key practice tool, AutoCAD Revit LT Suite.

Autodesk as a strategic partner is offering members a 25% discount! (LINK) The discount—available only to AIA members through July 31, 2016—responds to an ongoing request from small and solo practitioners to help them stay competitive and current in a fast changing marketplace. The Autodesk discount makes the latest tools and resources more affordable, so small firms can use them to better serve their clients and communities.

Not as much as Scott hoped, but it is a start and something AIA is working on.

If you have not submitted a design award in the past because of the hassle of gathering electronic information and then placing it on CDs, printing up several pages, and finding an envelope with postage, you might want to take a minute and visit the new online submission process. Use the direct link provided in Sophia’s article or go to the AWARDS page at www.aia-mt.org or https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/login.asp?EventKey=XPPRRBDQ. Your feedback—better yet—your submissions will be appreciated as the Board assesses the new system.

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.

Do not miss out on the chance to submit your projects and get them seen by others.

Thank You!
Connie

PS. I highly recommend that everyone put New Zealand, Australia and Fiji on your bucket list. Wonderful places to visit!