President’s Message:

Shane Jacobs, AIA, President of AIA Montana

All of a sudden, the summer is behind us and fall is staring us in the eye. I hear remarkable stories from around the state about how active the design and construction industry is. Hopefully you all remain busy at the office but found some time to enjoy that Montana Summer we just closed out with Labor Day weekend. If you haven’t been out yet, hopefully we’ll see a few more warm weekends where you can enjoy all that our state has to offer. Get out, recharge, be inspired, reflect, produce great architecture, repeat.

I’m down to just a two more meetings as your president. My time on the board has flown by and while I’ll still be around next year, I wanted to take a moment to tell you what it means to me and hopefully one day you’ll consider serving the profession in our state and all of our membership. Being on our board is a seven year tenure, which I honestly had reservations about at first. However, my desire to give back and work to leave the profession in a better state than I found it persevered and I took the leap. I’m so happy I did. The demands weren’t as intense as I originally feared and the rewards surpassed my initial expectations as well. I found more similarities than differences in my counterparts from other firms and fellow board members. Additionally, I found opportunities to reconnect with the MSU School of Architecture, think about our state as a single community in and of itself, network with like-minded and passionate professionals, not worry about fulfilling my continuing education requirements (because it’s been so dang easy to acquire them while on the board), plug in and understand more about the greater AIA, and even travel a little to represent you.

We are very fortunate as a state to see the profession of architecture in as healthy of a position as ours is. We owe that to past AIA MT board members, members of the Montana Board of Architects and Landscape Architects, our lobbyists Darryl and Jennifer James, and our own Executive Secretary Connie Dempster. They are instrumental to the cause and continued health. However, there is always work to do to stay the course, improve the course, develop alliances, defend the practice at times, and seize opportunities to support those choosing the profession as much as those running their career in architecture. Fresh perspectives are always welcome at AIA Montana and I urge you to consider one day representing your peers on this board. Officers on the board graduate their way through seven chairs, each with varying responsibilities and an ability consult with the previous chair(s) regarding where the successes and challenges have been in previous years. This system proves invaluable to the strength of the board and lessening of the actual demands on each of us, individually.

Last month, we were paid a visit by Rod Ashley, FAIA, Northwest and Pacific Region Strategic Council Representative at our regular, rotating board meeting in Missoula. Rod and his counterpart, David Huotari, AIA represent AIA Montana’s voice at AIA National. Through sharing with Rod and receiving feedback, I would summarize by saying that much of how I feel about AIA Montana is apparent to our region’s strategic council. So much good is happening in our big state with a relatively small population. We took the opportunity to share what the Montana component is up to, where we’re headed, and where we think we need work. Rod’s great perspective was appreciated in that he is a pipeline for what other components in our region are doing; how we can avoid their challenges, and use the momentum of their successes to our benefit as well.

I will make a call for an opening Incoming Director position on the AIA Montana Board during our general membership lunch meeting at the Fall Conference. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at this year’s conference in Great Falls, the wonderful lineup of speakers Sophia has orchestrated, recognition of the quality work coming out of our state through design awards, a side trip to the Sip ’n Dip the whole bit! See you later this month.
2018 AIA Montana Annual Fall Conference:
Design, Work, Live 2018

Sophia Sparklin, AIA, President-Elect and Conference Chair

I’m so excited to see you at our conference. Plan to make it a firm outing, or rope on an old friend in who needs a (potentially tax deductible) reason to come visit Montana!

Four more reasons to sign up today:

1. Our pre-conference is rapidly filling up! If you ever interview, you’ll want a spot to learn from the best.

2. While our keynote speakers have produced amazing work, their stories cover much of the backstory-obstacles, opportunities, detours. You will get the unique opportunity to see these architects off the cover page, learn some of their back story, and interact with them during the conference! If you must see the petty pictures first, check out their websites and publications:

3. This is our first time Downtown, near everything Great Falls has to offer. The last five years brought some amazing development downtown and along the River, including some phenomenal food and drink places. Please ask me for tips!

4. Have a drink with your board and colleagues. You may find new connections to refer certain clients to, or you may be referred to by them. Maybe there will be new opportunities for collaboration? Or maybe there will be the opportunity for just a little shop-talk about life as an architect?

Still need more reasons? In order of appearance, this is what the speakers are planning to share at this year’s conference:

- Nancy Kleppel, Associate AIA & Kacey Clagett, LEED (Appleseed Strategy)

“You Have Made the Shortlist – Now WIN the Job!” Tired of getting shortlisted but not winning at interview? This interactive workshop will hone your interview skills, so you focus on what the client needs to hear in order to select you. Using group exercises, expert presenters will walk participants through the steps of researching, strategizing and preparing presentations that center on what clients are looking for and that communicate the strategic benefits of your team. (4.0 LUs)

(This is the Optional Seminar at this year’s conference, the only event with an extra fee of $75 capped at 42 participants.)

James Cutler, FAIA (Cutler Anderson Architects)

“The Circumstances of Design and Reality” Each project that we design is embedded in the circumstances of the place in which we erect the structure, the materials we use to create that structure, and the client’s visual and emotional goals. We attempt to rigorously study, understand, and then reveal the nature of each one of these components. We believe in that effort, there is a wealth of opportunity to choreograph the human eye and therefore, amplify the understanding and emotional connection to the ‘whole’ of a project. We hope that this method of design transcends form and therefore creates unlimited opportunities for the architect and client to create work that is unique to them, while still being true to the nature of all of the circumstances. In this lecture, I will attempt to outline this method of design and then, through examples of our work, show how this approach is applied to achieve the clients’ objectives. (1.5 HSW)

Shannon Christensen, AIA (CTA Architects Engineers); Chele LeClair, AIA (LeClair Architects); and Randy Hafer, FAIA (High Plains Architects)

“Live-Work-AIA” Have you ever wondered what role AIA plays in your career development? This session will feature three of AIA Montana’s member architects who will provide you with insight into how AIA supported, shaped, and focused their pathway. Shannon Christensen, AIA (CTA Architects Engineers), Chele LeClair, AIA (MSU SOA and LeClair Architects), and Randy Hafer, FAIA (High Plains Architect, PC) will reflect on key turning points and meaningful events. This panel has been chosen to cover licensure, leadership and life inspired practice. (1.5 LUs)

Dean Lewis, Associate (DCI Engineers)

“Mass Timber to Mass Market” DCI Engineers has a wide variety of structural experience in all materials. The recent construction boom has caused for a shortage in materials, labor and elevated construction costs. Due to these constraints DCI Engineers has started to incorporate methods of modular, prefabrication and mass timber construction. Dean will look to share on these methods and how they apply to the code as well as how they influence the different design aspects of a project from acoustics, to aesthetic. (1.0 HSW)
Fall Conference Speakers — continued from page 2

Julie Eizenberg, FAIA, RAIA
(Koning Eizenberg Architecture)

“Opportunity Hides in Plain Sight” In our practice design revolves around connections and people. Sounds straightforward, but an examination of various case study projects reveals the need to think differently about contexts we take for granted. We are, in fact, in a period of tremendous cultural shift (socially and environmentally) that has us reassessing the design framework for home street and neighborhood. (1.5 TBA)

Courtnee Stevenson, Associate Producer (Hall and Company)

“Professional Liability Insurance: Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask” What to do if a claim occurs? What types of projects carry a higher risk of claim? What factors underwriters consider most when quoting? How to get a lower premium? A list of good risk management tools that every firm should know. (1.0 LU)

Krista Smith, Great Falls Plans Exchange (MontanaBid.com)

“The Bid Process — Everything You Wished Someone Told You!” How many days did you spend learning about the bid process in ProPractice? Most people answer zero or one. You probably learned about it in a panic the first time you had a project go to bid. Someone probably told you “do it like this” but even they weren’t really sure. You secretly hoped that no one would ever know that you aren’t totally confident in this area of your profession. This course will help you walk away with an understanding of the process, terminology and tips on how to make it as painless as possible. Learn about best practices so you can feel like a pro. (1.0 LU)

Scott Erdy, FAIA (Erdy McHenry Architecture)

“Housing: Social Space” As the world population becomes more urban, new models of living are developing that often blur the line between public and private space. This creates, though the design of our public spaces, opportunities to forge new modes of social interaction. In this session, participants will see contemporary and historical examples of how Social Space has been used as a response to programmatic, aesthetic and security concerns in buildings. The presenter will share his Solutions-Based Approach that leverages budget, program and zoning requirements to create better urban buildings. (1.5 HSW)

Joseph Tanney, AIA
(Resolution: 4 Architecture)

“The Modern Modular” For almost 100 years architects have pursued the Holy Grail of Modernism, which is to design a relatively affordable modern domestic space that could be mass-produced, though with varying degrees of success. Although the single-family home has historically been a focal point in the exploration of architectural ideas, most people do not live in a custom space designed by an architect. In fact, most domestic structures are conceived by developers as products, produced for profit. The efficiency of mass-production, both conceptually and physically, has in many ways contributed to the self-same tombstones representing graveyards of complacency otherwise known as the American suburb. As an alternative to designing a product to be produced, RESOLUTION: 4 ARCHITECTURE has been exploring a process, a method of design that attempts to leverage existing methods of residential prefabrication in order to create custom modern homes specific to each client, site, and budget. Joseph Tanney will present his firm’s ongoing prefab experiment, THE MODERN MODULAR, including several recently completed projects, the process of implementation, and the ideas behind the work. (1.5 TBA)

Brian Nickel, Manager Engineering Division (Harvey’s Engineering)

“Scan It. Fab It. Install It.” Learn how Harvey’s is using the Leica BLK 360 as part of a workflow to solve field challenges including verification of existing conditions, BIM Based Detailing with Revit, Offsite Fabrication, and as-built documentation in a high-end residential setting. (1.0 LU)
Plan your Stay in Great Falls Montana!
"10 Trip Ideas for the Traveling Architect"

1. Bring or rent a bike to ride on the River's Edge Trail | The River's Edge Trail features 60 miles of world class cycling and mountain biking trails. Bring your camera, picture perfect moments near hydroelectric dams, water falls, cliffs and high rolling plains are around every corner. | Rentals available at Knicker Bicker 406-454-2912

2. Get Glamorous for the Great Falls Symphony | The 60th season of the Great Falls Symphony kicks off on September 29 at 7:30PM. Tickets are available for "Titan," a heroic and celebratory composition at ticketing.greatfallsmt.net.

3. Explore the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center | The largest collection of Corps of Discovery Memorabilia in North America! | Open 7 days a week, 9AM-6PM

4. Be Inspired at the Charlie Russell Museum | You are just in time to see the summer exhibit, "The Women of Charlie Russel's Life and Art," before it closes in October. | Open Tues-Sun, 10AM-5PM

5. Get up Close and Personal during the Great Falls Parade of Homes | The Parade of Homes is a signature Great Falls annual event taking place during September 29-30, 2018. Hosted by the Home Builders Association of Great Falls, the Parade of Homes is a self-guided tour through beautiful, state-of-the-art homes in the Great Falls area. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling 406-452-4663.


7. Head out to the Bob Marshall Wilderness | "The Bob," is the rugged independent adventurer's version of Glacier National Park. Consider a day hike or an overnight backpacking trip after the conference. Great Falls is a short drive from notable hikes in the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front. Check out our day hike blog at www.VisitGreatFallsMontana.org to get your planning started.

8. Instagram Moment: Largest Fresh Water Spring in North America | Giant Springs State Park is the most visited state park in Montana, and it's just a 15-minute drive from Mansfield Convention Center!

9. Hang Loose at the Sluice | Sluice Boxes State Park offers stunning views and multiple trail options in the Little Belt Mountains. Bring your hiking poles and some good shoes to tackle Great Falls' backyard mountain range.

10. Meet at the Corner of History and Adventure | First People's Buffalo Jump State Park offers breathtaking views of Square Butte, the Rocky Mountain Front, and the Missouri River Valley. The views are great, but the legacy of this National Historic Landmark will spark your cultural curiosity.

11. Sunday Funday | Every trip to Great Falls is made better with brunch. Stick around for a weekend full of local dining options. Saturday: Electric City Coffee and Bakery, 5th and Wine, Clark & Lewie's. Sunday: The Celtic Cowboy Jazz Brunch, Sip N’ Dip Mermaid Brunch, Roadhouse Diner.
Get Involved, Get Connected, Get Creative

Ben Tintinger, AIA, Immediate Past President, and AIA MT SGN Representative

In your career as an architect, what keeps you awake at night? There are certainly the obvious things: deadlines, tight budgets, liability, procrastination (me getting this article to Connie), or just keeping the promises that we make. How about the less obvious issues facing architects? Loss of credibility, leadership, respect, or even the requirement to be a licensed professional? For me, lately, it’s worries about our entire profession, what it means to be an architect. More and more I am starting to see a slow erosion of our role as an architect. Contractors, Owner’s Reps, and Developers are taking the lead and architects are becoming a subcontractor, providing only the necessary information required for a building permit. In these scenarios, architects are third or fourth in line when it comes to credibility of information provided for budget, function, schedule, buildability, and even design. What used to be a collaborative team, I’m seeing hints of architecture becoming simply a task that needs to be completed.

While this view may seem somewhat extreme and certainly isn’t every project or everyone’s experience, there are some cautionary trends out there that we, as a profession, need to be aware of. If we sit back, like the frog in constantly warming water, we may eventually see the architect’s role take a back seat in the building industry. For example, how many times have you read a news article about a new building opening and find that the architect is never mentioned, yet the owner’s vision is touted, and the contractor is congratulated for bringing the project in on budget and in time. I know we see ourselves as the visionaries, the problem solvers, and in many cases, the team leader, but, does the rest of the world?

I am your new SGN (State Government Network) representative for MT AIA. SGN is a branch of AIA National that focuses on legislative issues important to architects. Everything from school safety issues to attacks on licensure are problems that SGN is tracking nationwide and communicating to state and local components. In July, I attended the annual meeting of SGN in Madison, Wisconsin (Great town! I recommend the Great Dane Pub and Brewery, braised pork belly and watermelon with the Devil’s Lake Red Lager). After three days of networking, presentations, discussions and action, I came away energized and encouraged that we can gain back our role as Architect. AIA is working hard for you, much of which is behind the scenes, to protect our profession and educate the public.

While SGN is working on many issues across all our states, the priorities are:

**Attacks on Licensure** (various legislation across the country is affecting architectural licensure including eliminating licensing requirements all together)

**QBS (qualification-based section)** - While we may take this for granted in Montana, there is a trend in some states to consider cost-based selection (low bid) for architectural services. Oregon is currently drafting legislation that will include fees in the selection process. This could soon spread through other states.

**School Safety** - As school safety legislation discussion happens in every state and at the federal level, architects need to be at the table. Design can make a difference in school safety. Send your support for using better design in schools for mitigating school violence. [https://p2a.co/cvYCCan](https://p2a.co/cvYCCan)


**Disaster Relief**

**Public Infrastructure Planning** - Both horizontal and vertical.

Maybe you’re not feeling it. Maybe you’re not seeing it. But, regardless of where you see the profession headed, as decisions are made that affect the built environment, architects must be at the table. This means that we need to become involved, to be proactive in our leadership role and with our skills for problem solving. Start by reconnecting with your passion for architecture. What was it that got you into architecture in the first place? Why is ‘what you do’ important? Now, how is that passion being affected by the ever-changing way projects are delivered and the perception of the ‘role of an architect’. It’s time to share your passion with whoever will listen!

AIA national has many resources for gaining and sharing knowledge. Specifically, legislative issues concerning the profession are tracked through the SGN. You can get involved through the Advocacy link on the national AIA web site [https://www.aia.org/legislative-action](https://www.aia.org/legislative-action). From there, you can join the Legislative Action Group. Other important resources include:

**Architecture Action Alerts** - Test AIA to 40649 for text message action items that come up periodically.

**Blueprint for Better** - AIA Public awareness campaign. [https://blueprintforbetter.org](https://blueprintforbetter.org)

**Center for Communities by Design** - [https://www.aia.org/pages/2891-centerforcommunitiesbysdesign](https://www.aia.org/pages/2891-centerforcommunitiesbysdesign)


As most of you know, the Montana Legislature meets every two years. Starting in January 2019, we will have the opportunity to help legislators understand how architects can help with many of the challenges we face in Montana, including Public Infrastructure, School Safety, Livable Communities, Energy Conservation and many others. Let’s get involved! I am inviting you all to take part in a group effort to introduce ourselves and our agenda. Over the coming months, I hope to organize Montana Architect’s Capitol Day. Working with our lobbyists, Darryl and Jennifer James, we can make a difference and help to craft solutions that advance our quality of life and protect the public’s health, safety and welfare.”
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
Remember that panicked feeling just before renewing your license last time and you were short HSW continuing education credits? To avoid that sinking feeling, make plans to attend the 2018 Fall Conference at the Mansfield Convention Center in Great Falls on September 26-28. This year’s conference chair, Sophia Sparklin, has packed this event full with great speakers and many CEUs. We are waiting for the final determination by AIA National as to what each session will be valued at.

On another note, Great Falls is a wonderful place to hold a conference. The conference will be both informational and fun. The Great Falls Society of Architects will be sponsoring a social at the Celtic Cowboy on Wednesday evening to get things started — everyone is invited. But don’t forget the traditional conference will begin bright and early on Thursday—September 27 at 8:00 am with registration.

Leadership and advocacy go hand-in-hand and are very necessary to maintain and propel the profession of architecture forward into the future. Stay in touch over the coming months and take the time to attend and share your views during the many ‘Code Adoption’ hearings that will be held throughout the state. Note that not only does the State Building Codes Division adopt but they also ‘exempt’ parts of the codes. These exemptions are as important or more important to the practice of architecture. Why certain International Codes are ignored by the State of Montana needs to be questioned and reviewed during this process. Take the time to get involved.

Thank you,
Connie Dempster, Hon AIA MT
Saving Montana’s Cultural Resources by Learning Places

Instructor: Barry Sulam was a licensed architect in New York now registered with the State of Montana, a former affiliated faculty member at Montana State University’s School of Architecture and currently a candidate in the Doctoral Program for American Studies. He had a career as a regional historical architect with the National Park Service (NPS) when he initiated the Cooperative Program for Architectural Conservation at MSU’s Cheever Hall in 1997. His years of volunteer service inspired the creation of this online service-learning course for anyone interested in historic preservation, community sustainability and sharing local stories by Learning Places.

Each session 6-week session can grant 12-18 units of CE units (HSW or LUs) for self-reporting and the course can be certified as an AIA provider. Completion certificate will be issued for aiding state licensing audits. Tuition and fees may be reduced for those applying for stipends if grants are matched.

Cost may be based on average of $30 per earned continuing education credit as per AIA allowing 15 HSW for a semester of graduate credit as a non-degree student at MSU.

Want to Help, Contact information

Barry.Sulam@gmail.com
or mail back brochure with your preferences for payment answers to the three questions
P.O. Box 4250 Bozeman, MT 59772

and please go to Survey Monkey at https:// surveymonkey.com/s/SS5FPV
Required Books:
All reference material is provided online
Suggested readings are accessed by links.
Access through internet is essential.

Pre-requisites: None.
Before registering the participant is encouraged to send an email to the course instructor expressing their interests and background. This allows for customizing the learners experience online and to set realistic goals with the community client match.

If you don’t have a specific project in mind the instructor has enlisted those groups who are needing assistance from volunteers to help with their community resource.

Location: Online
Extra learning units can be earned by visiting with community groups for presentations and/or skyping meetings.

Time Commitment:
In six-weeks: Completion by spending at least 3 hours a week researching, engaging with other online discussions, and instructor’s facilitated assessments. Pilot project offers four sessions this coming 2018-19 academic year. Can be repeated with a different modules and earn HSW or LU for the mandatory continuing education for licensure.

Course Description:
The course will encourage a comprehensive approach in a real-world situation through an online mode of Service Learning to preserve historic properties.

In a unique long distance learning model for the syllabus the learner first identifies a cultural resource they want to help save. They are paired with a community client who has a need for technical assistance.

There is a step-wise syllabus for six-weeks that moves from Identification to documentation, evaluation, assessment of the chosen cultural resource from the learners’ home towns. One can go home again and share their learning with those who can entrust you with their stories so for the first time you will be Learning Places.

By Learning Places, anew, following proven research methods a culturally sensitive stewardship plan will guide the community’s efforts to Save Montana’s Cultural Resources.

Grant funding can only serve as a startup’s catalyst for launching the online course and to be truly sustainable there needs to be a continued enrollment so that the projects of the founding cohorts of volunteers results in at least one preserved historic property in each of the 56 counties in Montana.

Want to Help Save Montana’s Cultural Resources
Contact: barry.sulam@gmail.com or mail back brochure with your contact information and preferences for payments to p.o. box 4250 bozeman, MT 59772
Go to Survey Monkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SS5FPPV

To achieve the desired outcome the enrolled volunteers with their community partners will have changed attitudes, behaviors and commitment toward preservation of cultural resources. Through their shared efforts their chosen cultural resource, from their own hometown, will receive another generation’s caring assistance.