President’s Message:

Shane Jacobs, AIA, President of AIA Montana

2018 is all but in the bag. With some snow finally in the skies and on the ground, the buzz of the local ski resorts are opening and the holidays are upon us. The annual routine of gift shopping and reconciling the balance sheet is here. After a busy year, hopefully you find some time to spend with family and friends and if your mind wanders back to architecture, maybe it will be in a broader sense of the profession after a few eggnogs or IPAs, whichever your preference. Here are a few insights I’ve come across in my time on our board that I feel are critical to the future of the health of the profession.

Change and Power. Architects often find themselves in the position of envisioning and then stimulating change, but tend to shy from positions of power outside of their own firm. Architects in political and policy making positions prove that when architects make a leap to volunteer for civic positions, our skillsets and ability to think broadly and create a vision can be applicable to our cities and advantageous to the public and our communities. Cities are ripe battle grounds for change. While our population centers are seeing an influx of growth, it is key to remember that policy change tends to be more prevalent at the local level. Furthermore, there also seems to be a recent shift in the political scales. In the recent past, cities looked to the state and federal governments for assistance and direction but it now appears that cities may be in charge, de facto and state and federal governments, rather, are looking to cities to solve some of the big issues facing our country today. Cities and towns are an easy insertion point for architecture because they are at a scale in which we are familiar working. As architects, our clients and buildings make up the people and spaces that shape our cities and towns; they are the very fabric of our community and network of places. Cities are an engine of commerce, but coincide with many social, economic, and environmental challenges that architects are uniquely trained to address.

If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. Through my AIA travels, it has been apparent that the profession has become riddled with real challenges and I never realized quite how good we have it in Montana with regard to defending our profession. We need to start thinking proactive rather than reactive when it comes to advocacy. Some states have no choice but to be reactive to legislation that is detrimental to the practice of architecture. In Montana, your AIA board, State Government Network, lobbyists, board of Architects and Landscape Architects, and professional members step up to defend or contradict bills that arises during legislative sessions. We can’t be on the sidelines watching only to later gripe about the very thing that threatened to erode what we do and who we are.

Resiliency and sustainability have worked their way into an architect’s vernacular. They apply to our buildings, sites, communities, but don’t forget about what they mean to our practice and profession. Where do we go from here? What are the hurdles on the horizon? What can we do today that will better position us for tomorrow? How do we continue to provide value to our clients and communities? One third of the current national AIA membership is of the baby boomer generation. That turnover as they retire leaves the rest of us thinking about what AIA, the practice, and individuals firms look like in the future. How does that transition look and the knowledge retained?
Get Involved, Get Connected, Get Creative

Shannon Christensen and Ben Tintinger are your SGN (State Government Network) representative to National and 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.

Ben Tintinger shared the following in 3rd Quarter Newsletter: 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/ editing=true&query=. From there, you can join the Legislative Action Group. Other important resources include:

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

Center for Communities by Design – https://www.aia.org/pages/2891-center-for-communities-bodesign

As most of you know, the Montana Legislature meets every two years. Starting in January 2019, AIA Montana have again contracted the services of Lobbyists Darryl and Jennifer James. Darryl and Jennifer will be monitoring bills that could have an impact on the architect profession.

What can you do? Get involved. Let the AIA Office or any of the Board members know that you would like to serve on the AIA MT SGN committee. Each week, Jennifer will share a report via email of the progress of the bills that AIA will be tracking with the MT SGN committee. Jennifer and Darryl will be asking for input: Support, Oppose, or Track. When supporting or opposing a bill, we sometimes need to be prepared to testify in a legislative committee—this is done with input and help from Jennifer and Darryl. This is a great way to test the waters, understand the working of the State Legislature and to be proactive.

AIA Montana wants more! Let’s get involved! Ben and Shannon are inviting you to take part in a group effort to introduce architects to Montana Legislators. AIA Montana will hold the first ever Montana Architect’s Capitol Day. This will be an 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.

Save the DATE: Thursday—January 24, 2019. The day will get started in Helena with a tour of the State Capitol, followed by lunch and ‘advocacy’ training from Darryl and Jennifer. After this, you the member will met and visit with legislators before ending the day with a short social hour at the Colonial Inn. Working with the AIA MT lobbyists, Darryl and Jennifer James, you can make a difference and help to craft solutions that advance our quality of life and protect the public’s health, safety and welfare.

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Reconnect with the School of Architecture. Whether it be Montana State or another alma mater SoA, reach back out and reengage. Guest critique, interview, donate to scholarships, join an advisory council, walk the halls and drop off a pizza. You were there once. Take the opportunity to see what the architects of tomorrow are concerned with and what they’re working on; be a bridge for them.

Call for influence; look for upcoming announcements regarding a advocacy day at Capitol Hill in January. Get involved, even if it is simply meeting your local representatives, introducing yourself and letting them know that you’re available if they ever have any questions about the design and construction world. A low-pressure meet and greet is an easy way to make connections. Beyond a trip to Helena next month, be an advocate for the profession in your RFQ responses, interviews, design, community presentations, business, and practice.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president in 2018. AIA Montana is strong and I’m proudful for having a stake in it. Looking ahead, I appreciate the opportunity to serve one more year on the board under Sophia’s leadership and look forward to what my new-found friends and fellow board member tackle and how they drive AIA forward in our state. Have a happy and healthy 2019!
CAVALLO RANCH

Project Description:
The clients for this project approached the architect with the idea of creating a modern dwelling within the context of a rural landscape. It was the design intention of the architect to construct a building that would appear familiar in composition while simultaneously exploring the possibilities of material texture, pattern, and transparency. The abstract design of the exterior appearance draws upon the historical forms of agricultural buildings while in contrast the design of the home's interior is intentionally sleek and contemporary. The arrangement of the floor plan is designed so that both the living room and bedroom have expansive views to the nearby Bridger Range and surrounding fields. The linear composition of the house acts as a visual and sound barrier between the adjacent road and the client’s equestrian arena where they spend considerable time training with their horses.

Program Requirements:
Interior designed to showcase the client’s private collection of modern art. 1 bedroom, 2 baths, a flex room, lots of storage room for outdoor recreation equipment.

Sustainability Goals:
Minimal construction waste, energy efficient design, modular construction

Design Solutions:
The interior design of the home uses clean lines and minimal color to create an effective backdrop for the client’s art collection while simultaneously framing views of the nearby mountains. The construction of the residence utilized SIP panels and modular construction techniques to reduce construction waste and expedite the completion of the home. The use of reclaimed wood and weathered steel panels pay tribute to the agricultural history of the land.
Mountains Walking Brewery

Project Description:
Mountains Walking Brewery is located on the industrial and residential boundary in North-East Bozeman. Our challenge was to turn an existing 10,000 square ft storage building on a large lot into a tasting room and brewery requiring special rooms for spontaneous fermentation.

Program Requirements:
Provided a tasting room that seats 100+ patrons and controls noise. Provide a Commercial kitchen complete with a pizza oven. Provide a beer deliver arrangement that uses no glycol lines. Arrange the Brewery and Fermenting room for optimal efficiency and to accommodate future expansion of equipment. Provide site conditions that accommodate parking for tasting room, employees and large trucks.

Sustainability Goals:
Reuse as much as the existing building as possible. Natural lighting was paramount to the design in both the tasting room and the brewing space. The site was planted with a native grass mix to reduce irrigation and maintenance.

Design Solutions:
The challenge was to keep the spirit of the old building without disrupting the eclectic nature of both the industrial and residential neighborhood. Spontaneous fermentation comes from the natural yeasts in the air. The result brings an unparalleled taste, not similar to regular beer. The architecture accommodated the unique needs of the brewery, while maintaining the integrity of the original building. A single architectural move delineates the tasting room from the brewery. The actual building is very large, so the tasting room became a “box within a box” bringing the area into an appropriate scale creating a comfortable environment. The box was also successfully used to help control noise by concealing sound absorption and creating an uneven surface for sound reflection, in a crowded environment. A large window gives the room an indoor/outdoor feel and allows soft north light to flood the tasting room. A low awning was used on the north wall to bounce light up and create an appropriate scale while seated near window.
Project Description:
Montana State University’s new flagship Dining Pavilion is the ‘invitation’ for students, staff and the community to campus from the north side. In keeping with the MSU masterplan that will eventually see the replacement of the old student dorms at the campus edge, the new Dining Pavilion faces the MSU’s “North Mall” culminating in the gateway to campus. The new Dining Pavilion, serving the northeast residential area of campus as well as its academic core, offers an exciting new gathering place for student life.

Program Requirements:
The Dining Pavilion provides seating for 700 in a $19.5 million, 50,000 SF building which includes a mezzanine and a basement with offices and support spaces. The building reflects MSU’s commitment to providing an outstanding dining experience to its rapidly growing student population, featuring eight serveries offering diverse fare including Mexican, Asian and Italian cuisines, comfort food, a European-style bakery, salads and sandwiches. Seating areas provide a variety of options from active and public to quiet and private, including a covered outdoor terrace on the mezzanine. Program requirements were developed through a collaborative process. Goals and priorities were identified by MSU staff leaders, the building committee and the architects during team workshops and a case study road trip. Students, staff and the public participated in charrette sessions, helping drive a user-focused solution.

Sustainability Goals:
The building was designed to achieve LEED Silver certification, in keeping with MSU’s dedication to sustainability. Strategies include passive solar design, with transpired solar collectors lining the south wall to preheat outside air. The roof was structured for future PV arrays, and LED lighting is used throughout.

Design Solutions:
The animating idea of the design is that of the pavilion (hence the name!), with a sense of open sides under a wide, beckoning roof. Inflections in the building’s exterior respond to visual alignment of the Bridger Mountains to the northeast and historic Montana Hall to the south. Mezzanine seating, in particular, benefits from dramatic views to these landmarks. The building’s design character and materials reflect the preference expressed by students and staff for quality materials (wood, glass, steel, masonry) handled in a contemporary fashion. Weathered Corten panels provide a rustic counterpoint to the sweeping brick volumes and generous swaths of glass. An upswept plank soffit emerges from the glazed mezzanine, providing a lantern-like glow to the surrounding campus.

Within the Pavilion’s crisp, angular shell, the interior creates a sense of marketplace: serveries each have a distinct, colorful visual character suiting their cuisine and are arranged in an organic fashion while subtly managing the traffic flow. The dining experience is enhanced with many venues featuring food prepared in full view. A retail servery featuring coffee drinks and fresh baked goods is accessible both from within and outside of the main dining hall, allowing operation outside of the dining hall’s hours. In all, the New Dining Pavilion is a handsome, functional and vibrant addition to a proud campus. It opens in the Fall of 2018.
Rialto Theatre Renovation

Project Description:
Originally built in 1908 as a two-story storefront and converted into a theater in 1924, the Rialto Theatre has a long history of serving Main Street in Bozeman’s central commercial district. In 2018, after sitting vacant for more than a decade, a local development team breathed new life into the abandoned theatre to set the stage for a new artistic and cultural hub.

Program Requirements:
The renovation of the Rialto Theater was an investigation of historical preservation. An overarching program goal was the adherence to the Rialto’s historical exterior and use as a theatre. To make the vintage theater relevant to today’s uses, the reinterpretation of the interior space required the flexibility to host a range of performances and presentations - from the country’s most sought-after bands to local musicians, spoken-word performances, movie nights and more. A space overlooking Main Street to serve wine, beer and a rotating menu from local chefs that could welcome both ticket holders and the general public for a drink and bite was also needed. An additional area dedicated as a gallery to showcase work from local artists and a space for private and community events for 15 to 150 people were essential.

Sustainability Goals:
As an alternative to developing on new land, the Rialto Theatre targeted infill development with the rehabilitation of an abandoned downtown structure located in Main Street’s walking district. The teams’ commitment to sustainable construction methods was expressed with the reuse of existing building materials reclaimed during demolition including repurposed bricks, metals, and wood throughout the project.

Design Solutions:
To honor the Rialto’s historical relevance, iconic exterior features such as the art deco-style marquee and signage at the front of the building have been restored. The interior spaces are a reinterpretation of the vintage theater making it relevant to today’s uses while utilizing reclaimed building materials such as wood and brick from the 1924 era structure. The reinvented venue includes a flexible use ground-floor theater called the Black Box, which accommodates up to 400 people and features a mezzanine level, offering a variety of options for artists, live performances and private events. The theater acoustics and sound system were designed by the award-winning consulting firm and in-wall LED lighting is programmable to the music. The second-floor, called the Burn Box, is a reinterpretation of the old Projection Room which housed nitrocellulose film that was extremely combustible and would often catch on fire. The design team repurposed some of the charred metal from an actual fire and incorporated it back into the design of the room. The Burn Box overlooks Main Street and at night is awash with the glow from the art-deco inspired RIALTO sign.
SHADE SHELTER PROJECT

Project Description:
Providing shade is a crucial piece of the puzzle to address human and community needs in a changing climate. This is especially important in lower income neighborhoods which often lack street trees and places of relief from the summer heat. The design team partnered with local non-profits, Climate Smart and Home ReSource to design and build a prototype Shade Shelter to address this immediate need in Missoula. Nestled along the popular Milwaukee Trail, amongst restored native parkland and the Clark Fork River, the Shade Shelter provides a place to rest, gather and refresh during the heat of summer. Constructed of recycled wood framing from deconstructed buildings, as well as construction site offcuts and rebar, the Shade Shelter is a highly sustainable example of reuse and up-cycling. The simple, repetitive nature of the design means that the structure can be assembled at Home ReSource by volunteers. The design is adaptable and easily reproduced with the end goal of providing multiple structures along the existing trails throughout the community.

The west façade and roof are constructed of discarded framing studs and cutoffs. Each piece carefully arranged to provide the necessary opacity for shade and transparency needed for a sense of security within the shelter. The result is a dappled light that shifts as the sun moves across the sky, connecting the occupant with their surroundings. The structure is supported on the east by a column of welded rebar reminiscent of the native grasses in Montana. The structure appears to float amongst its surroundings.

This project has been a true community effort built with volunteer efforts; the Shade Shelter is a tangible way to raise awareness of the changing climate and human needs in the community. And additional iterations are in the works.

Program Requirements:
- Provide shade from noon to 5pm at the height of summer
- Seating with a view of the river
- Room to accommodate a stroller or wheelchair within the shade
- Transparency as a means of security
- A prototype for structures throughout the community

Sustainability Goals:
- Use of 90% or more reclaimed building materials
- Partnership with Home ReSource Work Program to provide participants with the opportunity for work experience and direct job skills development in construction and green jobs.

Design Solutions:
- The west wall was added to ensure that the hot, late afternoon was blocked
- The rebar column was laid out by hand onsite by the architect and a representative from Climate Smart
THE LARK HOTEL ADDITION

Project Description:
The Lark Hotel Addition is a new four-story building housing 29 unique guest rooms, lobby, and the Treeline Coffee lounge as part of the public space for the Bozeman community and the traveling guest alike. Located on Main Street in the heart of downtown Bozeman, The Lark Hotel Addition thoughtfully responds to the 2014 renovation of an abandoned two-story 1960’s motor lodge. The Lark Addition is one of the first Montana buildings to employ a prefabricated structure made of Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT), an engineered wood product that is incredibly strong, quick to setup, and environmentally friendly.

Program Requirements:
The primary program requirements are 1) celebrating existing hotel renovation while ensuring design of the addition creates one, cohesive property.; 2) creating connection to community through public space and art; 3) guest experience; 4) social responsibility; and 4) speed of construction to minimize guest and Main Street disturbance.

Sustainability Goals:
While planning for the hotel’s expansion with a new 4-story structure, the design team successfully campaigned the development team to utilize mass timber and CLT as the primary structural system. The CLT engineered wood panel system is strong enough to replace concrete and steel in select mid and high rise projects. It is a renewable resource and a more environmentally responsible way to build than traditional methods. By employing exposed CLT construction, the development team has a visual story to share about taking hotel sustainability to the next level.

Design Solutions:
To celebrate the existing hotel and ensure a cohesive property, the façade of the addition was folded to expose the existing Victriong Taco vintage trailer and public gathering space. The front portion of the addition was molded to pick up the geometry of the existing building. The design team created public spaces throughout the property to connect the old and the new as one cohesive space. Active public spaces provide a connection between travelling guests, local residents and the Bozeman community. The large format glazing system blurs the line between the public and private spaces along Main Street, inviting both guests and locals into the Treeline Coffee lounge. To ensure a positive guest experience acoustic performance was emphasized and the circulation path focuses on a democratic view to the Bridger Mountains that all guest equally share.

Beginning with an essentialism design intent, all items deemed necessary for the project were elevated to a level of high design. This was executed through local artisan built-in furniture and fixtures. A connection to place was emphasized with the curation of the art in the guest rooms. Montana artists gave each room a unique, infographic wall installation to tell the guest a story about the experiences that are waiting just outside their door. The social responsibility requirement was answered by the teams leadership in making the Lark Hotel Addition one of the first building in Montana to employ sustainable CLT construction. The use of CLT provide an aesthetic opportunity to express the use of wood in a new way. In addition, its’ quick erection minimized disruption to the existing hotel’s guests and busy downtown Main Street area.
Montana architects are an untapped resource for the Montana Legislature. By training and practice, architects are problem solvers interested in making our state and our planet a better place while working to advance quality of life and protect the public’s health, safety and welfare. As design professionals, we recognize the need to engage in the ongoing dialogue around infrastructure investment and the prioritization of funding for critical infrastructure.

As members of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, we are pleased to provide our support for the Coalition’s prioritization of funding for basic road, bridge, water and sewer projects essential to the safety and stability of every community in Montana. That said, we also recognize the importance of investing in vertical infrastructure as well. We join the countless other design, finance, labor and construction professionals, as well as local government officials who are supporting State participation in meaningful investment in the public buildings necessary for our communities to provide essential services to Montanans.

Specific Areas of Interest for Montana AIA in 2019

Over the past few legislative cycles, AIA has lobbied various bills addressing professional licensure, building standards, and public infrastructure finance and development. At this stage, we do not foresee any significant legislation that would adversely affect the public interest in these areas, but through our government affairs representatives, we will monitor and weigh in on any legislation necessary to protect public health and safety within our area of influence.

AIA is a voting member of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, which was formed for the sole purpose of ensuring passage of substantive infrastructure investment measures in the 2017 session, and beyond. The Coalition recognizes that infrastructure and the economy are inextricably intertwined, and that we cannot maintain safe and healthy communities without a solid foundation of basic infrastructure that provides clean drinking water, wastewater systems, a safe and efficient transportation system, and the ability for every community to leverage state and local dollars to make that next tier of investment to enhance their community.

To that end, AIA will actively engage in the development and support of a comprehensive Bonding Bill containing significant investment opportunities for communities across Montana.

Keeping in Touch

During the legislative session, members of our organization intend to be actively engaged up at the Capitol and will make a point of reaching out to introduce ourselves. We’re also looking into the opportunity to participate in an event in the Rotunda to tell you a little more about our profession.

In the event that one of us is not available, you can also feel free to reach out to our government affairs representatives, Jennifer and Darryl James, as they will be a more consistent presence throughout the session.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana, and your assistance in providing safe and healthy communities across the state.

Sincerely,

AIA Montana

AIA Montana shared this message with each of the 2019 State Legislators!
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

This year continues to be a busy one for AIA Montana as we gear up for the 2019 Legislative Session! This year AIA Montana will again hire the lobbying services of Darryl and Jennifer James to monitor bills that could have an impact on the profession of licensed architects. If you would like to help serve on this AIA MT SGN committee (that operates) via email, please let me know. I would be happy to add you to this list.

In addition to monitoring bills, AIA Montana members will travel to and visit the Capitol on January 24, 2019. This day will include lunch, training on visiting a legislator and conclude with an AIA Montana sponsored reception with our legislators! Reach outside your comfort zone and learn a new skill. We will be calling upon you after the new year. Save the DATE!

Don’t forget to vote before December 21—another ballot will be sent with the newsletter for those that have yet to get this done and out of the way.

The AIA Montana Office will be closed on December 24 and reopen on January 2, 2019. I hope this does not cause anyone any inconvenience and the advance notice helps with your year end plans.

I would like to take a minute to thank you for the privilege of working for AIA Montana and for each of you – the members. To be associated with such a respected profession that continues to strive for new levels of excellency, that continues to grow and evolve, makes it a joy to come to work each and every day!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Thank you,
Connie Dempster, Hon AIA MT