

AIA-UK

NEWS

Ronald Altoon speaks on international practice

NEWS

Search City codes using AIAOnline

PROFILE

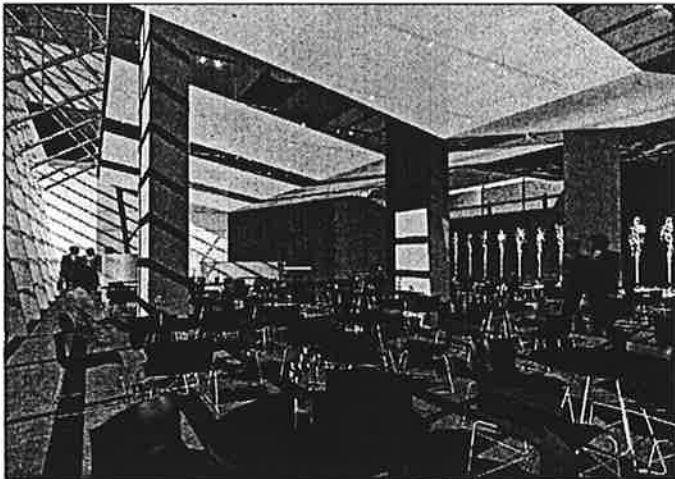
Larry Malcic, Director of Design, at HOK's London office

NEWS

Large Firms discuss practice at PIA in Paris

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The images above are visualisations done by Archinet. Robert Graves and Didier Madoc-Jones, both partners of Archinet, are ex-architects, having trained at Canterbury and the Architectural Association School of Architecture respectively. Their computer design experience began with the early days of CAD in London, working for SOM.

Archinet Puts AIA/UK On-line

The Chapter now has a home page that can be reached by anyone with access to the internet. Archinet, an internet service for architects and the building industry, organised the page by putting the chapter newsletter on-line last month.

The address is "www.archinet.co.uk/aialondon". Users can click on the topics listed under the masthead and read the ar-

ticle. If you have suggestions and contributions for the page, please contact Michael Lischer, tel. 0171-636-2006 and fax 0171-636-1987.

Archinet began operations last month and already has approximately 100 architectural firms as clients. An example of how one firm is making the most of the service is the home page of Foster & Partners. There is a CV of the practice, CVs of each of the directors, descriptions of their projects, a press release page that can

be updated daily, a bibliography for researchers and writers, plus lists of awards, exhibitions and publications. The page can be adapted to have an email button where messages can be left.

Archinet is not selling space on the internet, say Didier Madoc-Jones. "It is creating a gateway specifically with the UK, then Europe. It's making links." In this respect it is much like the AIA web page, only that the focus of this service is Europe. Subscribers pay a nominal fee after three months to list their

home page. Archinet does not charge for the design and set up of the information, and there is no charge to browsers who use the home page.

Using the "search engine," users can identify a category and subcategories, e.g., Architects and Architects/London. So far, it has 8,500 firms in its database and it offers 150 links to other companies on the internet. The company plans to publish a complete listing of competitions, news pages and an on-line product selection service.

President's Message

Peter Ellis, AIA, one of our Vice Presidents, has taken on a new challenge and is leaving London's SOM office to become Design Director of SOM's San Francisco office. I know you all join me in wishing him great success in his new challenge.

I look forward to working with Robert Schmidt, who is replacing Peter, and welcome him to our Board of Directors (he doesn't know what he is

letting himself in for!) Robert will also assume Peter's role as Education Chair.

With Grass Roots, the AIA Convention and the Paris meeting of the International Markets and Practice Committee successfully concluded, we are moving into full swing with our Chapter's programme of events.

We expect a large turnout for our annual summer Garden Party. With a new venue secured, we expect this year's party to be an even

bigger success. I look forward to seeing you at the Orangery in Holland Park on July 26th.



New Vice President Appointed

Robert Schmidt, Associate Director of the London office of SOM, has been named Chapter Vice President by the Board of Directors.

Schmidt came to London in 1987 from Chicago. His practice specialty is planning and urban design. He is currently working on a master plan for Doncaster Lakeside Development.

International Practice Advocate Elected First Vice President

Ronald Altoon was elected First Vice President and President Elect of the AIA at the national convention in Minneapolis last month. He is a fellow member with Stephan Reinke on the AIA International Advisory Board and has strongly backed our Chapter and its activities. Within the week of his election, Altoon wrote Reinke to

say, "I didn't want any more time to pass without offering to assist in whatever way I can to realize proper support of and representation for our overseas components."

While at the convention Altoon spoke with Francoise Vonier for the international newsletters, and the following is an excerpt from her interview.

FV: What do you think the AIA should do to help members be effective global competitors?

RAA: The AIA is already doing a lot in this domain with the PIA international committee. Brochures and guidelines are produced. The AIA is also playing a leadership role in bilateral negotiations. We have ongoing programs in China.

FV: Do you have specific plans for Europe?

RAA: In England, we need to explore opportunities for reciprocity with the RIBA. In Europe, we can look into options to open the continent

to US architects. I need time to focus on these issues and I hope members in Europe will help me determine what specific actions are needed.

FV: What plans do you have for the International PIA?

RAA: I think it is a valuable resource. It supports members in international practice. It is an opportunity for small practitioners to get benefits. The PIA International should establish partnerships with architects overseas. Big

ALTOON cont.

firms colonize. In doing business, I want to collaborate with firms from whom I can learn. I look for relationships to enrich me on regional knowledge. The client is best served by regional knowledge but the project is best served by global knowledge.

FV: What role do you see for off-shore chapters?

RAA: A US architect arrives in Hong Kong. What should he do? The chapter there should be a reference point from which architects can

start operating overseas. The AIA should look at a possible link with US embassies overseas. The State of California pays officers all over the world to represent and promote California business. We could set up a similar network for architects.

FV: What does the AIA need to do globally?

RAA: We need to look at codes and sensible code approaches in developing countries--in Asia for instance. We must uphold professional standards and a

quality of process in these countries that are more similar to those in the US and Europe. We must address the issue of how to deal with projects that lack social and human scales. It is very difficult to maintain integrity in some countries, like South East Asia for instance. Codes are adapted to whom-ever you know. Clients will sell your plans to other architects, and architects will go along with this. If clients don't pay, there is no recourse on collecting fees. These issues must be addressed.



Above: Francoise Vonier with Russell Kuene, Director of International Relations, AIA, at the PIA meeting in Paris.

London Large Firms Share Insights in European Practice

Europe as an architectural market was explored at a conference in Paris cosponsored by the International PIA and the Continental Europe Chapter. David Leventhal of KPF, Michael Lischer of HOK, and Roger Kallman of SOM—all with the London branches of their firms—discussed the experience of large firms in a ques-

tion and answer forum moderated by Dragos Patrascu of DPM Architects.

Lischer reported that HOK expects more than 20 percent of its revenue for 1996 to come from outside the US, and most of it to derive from European practice. In terms of client relations, he found the US practice of additional services to be a foreign concept. The key to success was specialisation and perhaps common sense. Before opening an office, said Lischer, "Get a job first."

Roger Kallman observations were based on the experiences of a firm which had worked in Europe for the past thirty years, and which had recently been hired to "re-store" one of its earliest commissions. His caution was that others should assess carefully the momentum for further work before opening an office in Europe.

Both Kallman and Lischer alluded to the impact that modern telecommunications has made on the way offices are staffed. Both firms rely on staff from other offices

who work at their home base. Kallman said that fewer than ten percent of SOM's London staff came from the US.

David Leventhal discussed not how Americans practice in Europe, but how Europe has redefined American practice. Since moving to London he has become more interested in the spaces that buildings create rather than in the buildings themselves. Leventhal drew from the work of KPF to illustrate what he called the European Office Building, calling it a new building type.

PARIS PIA MEETING



Above: Bernard Kohn, architect of the extensions to the Paris Metro (left) giving a tour to participants at the PIA Meeting in Paris
Centre: Ron Altoon, President Elect of the AIA and Sharlene Silverman, Principal, Ove Arup & Partners, California
Right: The Hon. Pamela Harriman, US Ambassador to France hosting an Embassy reception for the AIA PIA in Paris

NEWS

CLAWSA Dinner at Arts Club

Paul Drury, English Heritage Regional Director of London and Southeast Region, will be the main speaker at the CLAWSA Annual Dinner at the Arts Club on 20 June 1996.

Other invited top-table guests include Owen Luder, RIBA President; Michael Cassidy, Honorary Fellow RIBA, Chairman of the Policy

(cont. on back page)

It was packed!

"More than 125 people came to our 1 1/2 hour seminar," reports Stephan Reinke of the AIA National Convention in Minneapolis. I introduced international trends, the AIA internationally and our Chapter's work."

Reinke joined Michael Lischer and Karen Cook to lead the seminar. Lischer presented projects in the UK, Germany and Russia. Karen Cook spoke about working in Germany, Cyprus, France and the Netherlands and

Reinke covered the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean and the Far East.

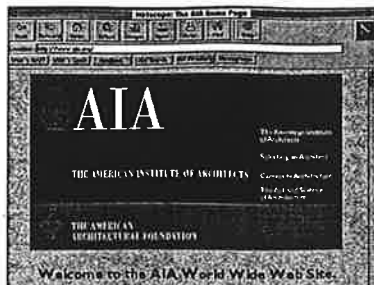
"We feel the importance of relating the opportunities and methods of International Practice to our members cannot be over stated," says Lischer. "Our members must become aware of the implications of an interdependent global profession."

Specifically they talked about practising and prospering in the international market place, how to gather specific information regarding archi-

tectural licensing abroad, how to make contacts for international collaboration and how to practice in a foreign country.

"There were lots of questions and discussion," says Reinke. "It was very encouraging to see such interest! We will do it again next year."

The presentation was offered with the AIA International Markets Professional Interest Area and supported by the International Relations at the Institute.



AIA Online v. The AIA

AIA now offers two sources of information on-line. AIA Online, top left, is a dial-up bulletin board of practice information. It is not accessible to the general public. Members can request software (free) and are charged \$9.95 per month when they use the service. In a few weeks, it will be available on the internet, and you won't need any software.

"The AIA" is the AIA's website on the internet (a sample



page at lower left). It gives client-oriented information and is open to the general public. The AIA can help link its national website to a member's own website (such as London/UK's page, hosted by Archinet).

Web Crawling

So you've got a 14.4 Kbps modem, the right kind of Internet connection, and a Web browser. Where do you go to get some bang for your buck, as opposed to succumbing to an enormous timesink?

- The AEC Info Center bills itself as the "Internet Expo for Architecture Engineering and Construction" (URL: <http://www.aecinfo.com/>). It is a Canadian Web site that has what it takes to become great. It actually contains more comprehensive information about A/E/C in the United States than any US site I know of. It features a growing section of building product manufacturers' Web sites, arranged by CSI's MasterFormat. The AEC Info Center also has an interactive question board that presents questions and re-

WEBSITE cont.

quests the center has received and that are awaiting answers. If you have a product or knowledge to answer the question, you can send it in and possibly even gain a new client.

- Also in Canada is the Virtual Library: Architecture (URL: <http://www.clr.toronto.edu/VIRTUALLIB/arch.html>). Rodney Hoinkes, who does an admirable job of maintaining this resource, is at the University of Toronto's Center for Landscape Research.

The site is finishing out its second year and has stood the test of time. It is well laid out, with information arranged into convenient categories, including "Groups--Research, Firms, Jobs"; "Sources--Publications, Software, Courses"; and "Talk--Events, Conferences, Competitions, News."

- Architects First Source launched its Web site at the end of August with a public demo (URL: <http://www.expo.net/AFS/demo/>) that looks promising. It is

user friendly and will eventually be searchable by keywords and manufacturer name.

- FMLink (URL: <http://www.fmlink.com/>) is a subscriber service designed to give facility managers access to many types of FM and real property information.

- Arch-Online NY (URL: <http://www.arch-online.com/>) is an example of a resource for architects offering networking, building

product information, and other resources on a local scale. If it develops as intended, it could become a useful tool for New York architects.

The above article is excerpted from *Architecture on the Internet* "From Hype to Hyperlink," by Carl Sandstrom, who is webmaster of the AIA's site. You can reach him by e-mail, webmaster@aia.org, or phone (202) 626-7512.

QUESTIONNAIRE

What Do You Want on Our Website?

The Chapter's website on Archinet is a public forum, similar to the AIA's web page. We assume that browsers will be primarily Europeans. The question is, what should we put on it?

AIA lists ProFile on the web, which means that many local members, or their firms, are already listed on the Internet. Should we list the Chapter's membership directory?

If the Chapter directory is listed, would you want to change entry from that which is currently listed?

Meet Larry Malcic

Larry Malcic (pronounced Mallick) was one of the people who worked to set up the London/UK chapter three years ago. He served on the Board of Directors during the Chapter's first year. He came to London in 1989 to join the London office of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum. In fact, he joined HOK to come to London.

Malcic grew up in St. Louis, MO, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and taught architecture at Wash-

ington University where he was also Assistant Dean of the University's Business School. He was active in the local AIA chapter, through which he came to know all three of HOK's name principals.

Obata asked Malcic to join the London office, the firm's first European office. Obata wanted a designer experienced both in running a small office and in teaching, as he felt these qualifications would help the office to expand in a positive way. "In teaching you need patience,"

say Malcic, adding that practice in London reminds him of the Scripture of St. Paul, "rejoicing in hope and patient in tribulation."

At the time, Malcic was a principal in Gilmore Malcic and Cannon as well as a Visiting Professor of Architecture at the University of Texas, Arlington. Malcic saw the work of GMC as being "client specific, not building type specific," in that most commissions came from educational institutions that hired him to design many different types of facilities.

Malcic finds each of HOK's 22 offices to have a different corporate personality, reflecting the style of its management committee and differing markets. The London office has strengths in sports and interiors.

Projects have ranged in size and complexity from a 10,000-square-foot church in a conservation area to the 350,000-square-foot Hobart House, London. The latter commission has just been submitted for planning permission. The office recently received planning consent for



Above: Larry Malcic, Director of Design, Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum
Centre: Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London
Right: St. Barnabas Church, Dulwich

MALCIC cont.

a 350,000-square-foot retail and leisure complex on the Finchley Road for the Burford Group.

"Having a great variety in the scale of the commissions gives us a sense of perspective. It makes us see design as a process, and that process becomes applicable no matter what the scale or project type," says Malcic.

The office's smallest commission, however, has been the most significant for Malcic. While working on the design of St. Barnabas Church,

Malcic met his wife in the congregation. They were married last year in the church before the project was completed.

Welcome New Members

The Chapter would like to introduce readers to the following new colleagues: **Craig Colclasure**, SOM; **David Croke**, Alan Conisbee & Assoc.; **Ken Giannini**, Marshall Cummings Marsh; **Christopher Gaylord**, Gaylord

Associates; **Craig Julian**, Julian Associates; **Mark Weintraub**; **William Slusher**, FK Architects; **Amy Kaspar**, Brooks Oxford University; **Andrew Justice**, Swanke Hayden Connell Architects; **Douglas Keys**; **Colin Morris**, MCH Projects; and **Steven Spier**, South Bank University.

Transfers to London/UK are: **John Lawhon** and **John Lowe**, both of HOK; **Dan Lonergan**, **William Hanway**, Davis Brody Tibbalds Monro; and **Bruce Nepp**, Anshen Dyer.

Waterfront Park Competition

The Village of Greenport, NY is holding an open design competition to convert a commercial fishing port into a 4-acre park. Prizes are \$20,000 plus commission, \$10,000 (1st), \$5,000 (2nd) and \$3,000 (3rd). Programs are available in July and submissions are due November 15th. Multi-disciplinary teams are encouraged. New York State license is not required. Call 001-516-477-3000.

EVENTS

June 21-July 27: *Buildings for Education*, exhibition of design excellence as selected by clients, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, W1. Contact 0171-580-5533.

June 29-30: XIX Congress International Union of Architects, Barcelona. Contact David Walker, 0171-374-4371, fax 374-0506.

July: *London in the 21st Century*, exhibition of proposals for the city sponsored by the Architectural Foundation, 30

Bury Street, SW1. For details, call 0171-839-9389.

July 26: Third Annual AIA London/UK Garden Party. Orangery and Gardens in Holland Park, London, 6.30pm. Contact Stephan Reinke, 0181-748-8088, fax 748-3475.

August: Second Annual AIA London/UK Family Bar B Que. Contact Stephan Reinke, 0181-748-8088/fax 748-3475.

AIAUK would like to hear from you. Contact **AIAUK**, 33 Hollywood Road, London SW10 9HT, 0171-376-8763, fax 0171-352-5594.

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The newsletter of the London/UK Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Justine Kingham, Michael Lischer, David Walker, Stephan Reinke, Karen Whittle, Editors

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AIALondon/UK

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Send a little happiness



NEWS

City Codes Coming to AIAOnline

The permits office of Houston, TX, has been working with the AIA to put their building code on AIAOnline. Parts of the regulations are already available, including an inspection check list and instructions covering the permit process. This is a prototype that is being watched closely by several cities, especially Chicago and San Francisco which have shown interest in following suit.

Houston officials approached the AIA with the project after technology became available assuring that files would be pristine. Now, Houston and others can insert "PDF" files that cannot be altered by outsiders.

This guarantee--that what you see is what was sent--has enabled the AIA to make contract forms available and product manufacturers to provide model specifications on-line. For example, Houston permit application forms can be downloaded by users to fill out as original forms.

To see the Houston city code, go into AIAOnline, then to Construction Resources. Click on Permits, then click on Houston. Some 50 PDF files will appear. Houston can update their entries on a daily basis, should they wish.

Alternatively for those lacking work in Houston, specifications, details and general information from Sweets Catalogue is available from Construction Resources by clicking on Product Catalog, then category of product, then manufacturer.

CLAWSA cont.

& Resources Committee of the Corporation of London and non-executive director of British Land; Cllr. Robert Davis, Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster and former Chairman, Planning & Environment Committee, Westminster City Council; Paul Finch, Editor, *Architect's Journal*; and Lee Mallett, Editor of *Building Design*.

Tickets are £45, with a limit of 100 places. Contact Noel Hill, 0171-435-2462 (tel. & fax).