

AIA UK

NEWS

RIBA hosts AIA at Portland Place to discuss shared problems and future cooperation.

FEATURES

London's Benjamin Franklin House at Risk and in need of funding.

PEOPLE

Sir Peter Shephard: Trans-Atlantic Architect, Teacher and Artist.

COMMENTARY

AIA Online has the potential to revolutionize the way Architects work.

Number 2

July 1994



Alex Reid, RIBA Director General (left), Terry McDermott, CEO of the AIA, Moderator Andrew Rabeneck, Bill Chapin, President of the AIA, and Frank Duffy, President of the RIBA in panel discussion at the RIBA, London. photo: Morley Von Sternberg

AIA and RIBA Pledge Cooperation

L. William Chapin II and Frank Duffy, presidents of AIA and RIBA, Terrence M. McDermott, CEO of the AIA, and Alex Reid, Director General of RIBA, discussed problems shared by US and UK architects at a RIBA-hosted seminar in June in honour of the AIA London/UK chapter.

The public is questioning the value or utility of professionalism, said Duffy. Protection of title became an issue, followed

by government's attempt to drop funding for the fifth year of architecture study. Now, architects face an attack on fee structures.

Why is professionalism valuable? continued Duffy. Judgement. The worth of a profession is based on the particular type of knowledge that develops only from experience.

Taking up the concern that architectural fees are too high, Chapin said that fees are in alignment with the value imparted by architects. Fees are fair, he said, and "we shouldn't give

away the store. Instead we need to advertise the merchandise."

Terry McDermott defended the practice of selecting architects based on their qualifications. Paraphrasing President Clinton, McDermott said "It's the initials, dummy." AIA and RIBA heighten public awareness of professional standards. "The professional societies are as devoted as is the public to quality of service," he said.

Andrew Rabeneck, director of European Facilities for Salomon Brothers and commentator for the evening, concurred that public interest in architecture

has never been higher. McDermott expanded on Duffy's comments by saying that the hallmark of professionalism is vision, passion and confidence. At this time, architects still have vision and passion, but face a crisis in perceived confidence.

Is Reciprocity Likely?

Duffy answered that recognition of UK and US registrations "broke down over introverted local reasons", while Chapin said, "we hope shortly to have an conclusive answer to that question."

AIAOnline

In Spring 1993, the AIA introduced AIAOnline, an electronic information and communication service which is set to revolutionize the way architects go about their work.

Online's success was further secured when, at the Los Angeles convention, President Bill Chapin announced that Online would be free for all AIA members. This means that for the price of access to the local Sprintnet telephone network (40 cents/27p per minute), members can access a

powerful array of services including, Business Development Leads, Building Product Databases, AIA Databases and Directories, and Online Communications including E-mail, Message boards, Employment Referrals and Electronic meetings.

To access AIA Online members need to have:

- The AIAOnline software
- A MacPlus, IBM, or IBM-compatible computer
- a Hard-disk drive
- An EGA or VGA monitor
- a Hay-compatible modem (1200,2400, or 9600 baud)
- A mouse

To subscribe to AIAOnline and receive your software, ID number, and password, send your name and address and payment details to the AIA, 1735 New York Avenue., NW, Washington, DC 20006-5292 or Fax to (202) 623-7518.

Finding Cheap International Phone Service

The least expensive international telephone service that newsletter staff could find is offered by Kallback.

Kallback assigns clients a personal telephone number which you dial, then hang up. A computer calls you back, and you dial your call according to instructions. The service is compatible with faxes and modems. Calls cost 36 cents per minute, and there are no per-call connection charges, but clients pay \$10 per month as a maintenance fee, plus \$2 per month per subaccount. Charges can be billed to Mastercard, Visa or American Express.

Kallback is available in all countries. For information call 206-284-8600 or fax 206-282-6666.

NEWS

Benjamin Franklin House at Risk

The last surviving home of Benjamin Franklin, and, in effect the first US Embassy, No. 36 Craven Street, WC1, has been on English Heritage's "Buildings at Risk" register for some years and, according to Jonathan Carey of Donald W. Insall & Associates Limited (Consultant Architects for the restoration) faces a number of serious though resolvable structural problems.

The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House are anxious to start work, but lack sufficient funds. They must collect £300,000 by September to comply with a structural repairs notice from English Heritage. The house is then to be restored for an additional £500,000 as a living museum.

"The layout and construction of the residence is typical of early 18th Century terrace houses in London. On each floor are single front and back rooms with a small extension to the rear. To one side is a hall, off which a splendid set of timber stairs rises through the whole height of the

house," says Carey. "The building is really a brick 'box' with a spine wall running across the middle, between the party walls."

"The original panelling still exists inside the house, although parts of it have been re-located or altered in an unsuitable way by later generations," says Carey. While correction of this is relatively non-urgent, Carey's main concern is that the panelling conceals defects in the underlying brickwork.

There is no effective bond or tie at the four corners of the house, between the front and rear facades and the party

walls. In effect, these structural elements abut rather than tie or stiffen each other. Removal of a small amount of panelling at the South West corner has revealed a 4-inch gap between the front elevation and the side wall.

A further complication with the front elevation is that it comprises a thin outer skin of good quality brick over a much thicker wall of lightly fired and poorer quality brick. Unfortunately the outer skin was built with very little bonding to the true structural wall behind and, over the years, the two elements have started to part. There are now pronounced bulges in the wall, and these are

NEWS

AIA/UK Proposes Changes At LA Convention

The AIA national meeting in Los Angeles in May was the first time the Institute convened with international chapter representation. This was referred to by Institute President William Chapin during his opening remarks and by several other speakers during the convention.

The London/UK chapter proposed a resolution from

the floor which called on the Institute to revise its dues structure so as not to charge foreign-licensed architects more than members licensed within the US.

It was also proposed that foreign-licensed architects residing within the catchment area of an international chapter be allowed to join the local chapter without also being required to join the national organisation.

The resolution was debated and put to a vote that drew equal calls of yea and nay. The resolution was tabled pending further study.

Michael Vance spoke on succeeding through change, the theme of the convention. Vance, who studied and worked with Frank Lloyd Wright and Buckminster Fuller, has had long associations with Walt Disney, Steve Jobs at Apple and Jack Welch at GE.

Other highlights included presentations by Sir Norman Foster and James Fallows, a massive trade exposition, the Eames Film Festival, breakfasts by the Preservation and Marketing practice interest areas, and the election of next year's national president, Ray Post.

Continuing Education Course Planned

The London/UK chapter is planning a seminar to fulfil AIA learning requirements. Beginning in 1995, AIA members will have two years to accumulate a still-to-be-determined number of learning units.

We would like to hear your suggestions for possible course topics. It is hoped that the continuing education seminar will also be vetted by RIBA.

Contact Judy Nyquist, AIA/UK executive secretary, at 2 Harker Street, London SW3 2LG.

PEOPLE

Sir Peter Shepherd

Twenty years ago the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia opened a one man show of the superb drawings and watercolours of Sir Peter Shepherd. That evening, in response to a student's comment that he wished he had more time to practice his drawing skills, Peter Shepherd gently but firmly chided, "Young man, we all have the same hours in a day; it's how you choose to use them." Peter Shepherd has filled his eighty years with

activity and success on both sides of the Atlantic, and in the process has been made a Commander of the British Empire.

He has been a keen observer of the world all his life, and early developed his profound interest in nature and natural science. He successfully combined this interest with architecture, and evolved a comprehensive view of environmental design that includes landscape, building and urban planning. His natural ability to communicate led to teaching appointments and the presidency of the Architectural Association

in 1954-1955. His American activities began with an appointment in 1959, as Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Thirty-four years later he remains a faculty member at Penn, having served as Dean of the Graduate School from 1971-1979, and as author of the University's extensive landscape masterplan that was implemented in the late 1970's.

While maintaining a busy practice, first as Bridgewater & Shepherd and later as Shepherd, Epstein & Hunter, Sir Peter found time to serve as President of the Institute of Landscape Architects (1965-

66) and as President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (1969-1971). His contributions to the profession and Anglo-American relations have been recognized by the Canadian and American Institutes of Architects, both of whom have chosen him as a Honorary Fellow.

This month the University of Liverpool, where Shepherd took his degree in 1936, awards it's distinguished and prolific graduate with an honorary degree. Sir Peter continues to use all the hours in the day designing gardens, and recording nature with his ever present sketchbook and pencil.

most acute near the top of the house. As there is not much restraint to the front elevation, says Carey, the owners have had to erect a special scaffold inside part of the house to provide a temporary tie. This cannot be removed until the wall has been properly repaired.

Because the principal floor beams bear into the narrow piers between the windows, these lightly fired brick columns take considerable weights. There are hints under the panelling that this brickwork is overstressed, crushing, and maybe splitting. In a similar house that Insalls repaired some years ago, they

found it was only panelling that held some brickwork together.

Due to the long span of the principal beams, the floor "bounces." The consequent vibration has not only disturbed the brickwork around their bearings, but contributed to the de-lamination of the facade and other problems noted in the main elevations. The floor structures thus need stiffening and upgrading.

The roof coverings have now reached the end of their life and need replacing in new Welsh slate with lead gutters and flashings. The two flat roofs also have to be re-

covered in lead. At the same time, the roof structure will require careful checking and some repairs or replacements. Meanwhile, temporary felt roofing has had to be laid to prevent rain penetrating the structure.

There is also anxiety about the possibility of dry rot concealed behind panelling. While the defective rainwater pipes have all been temporarily replaced in plastic, there is a significant risk that previous leaks may have caused rot attacks which cannot be revealed until work starts.

For further details contact Anne Prescott Keigher at 071-

839-7717. Contributions can be sent to Friends of Benjamin Franklin House/Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adams Street, London WC2N 6EZ. The Friends is a registered UK Charity and a US non-profit organisation.

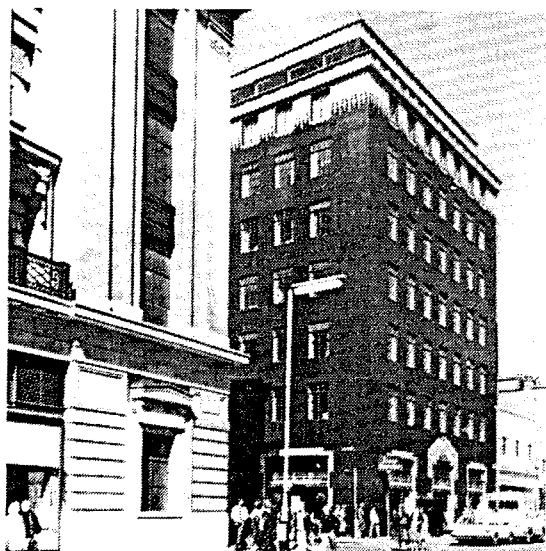
Four More New Chapters?

AIA has received preliminary inquiries concerning the possible establishment of local chapters by AIA members in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia.

Contact Kim Christensen, the assistant director of Component Affairs at (202) 626-7378.

FEATURES

cut here



Contest

Guess the building and its architect, illustrated (left).

Building:

Architect:

Last Issue's Contest Answer

Benjamin Franklin lived in the house featured in last month's contest. It is the only surviving house occupied by Franklin, who lived there between 1757 and 1762 and again between 1764 and 1775.

Unfortunately, no one identified it.

If you have suggestions for future contests, please send a picture or line drawing, plus identification, to the editor.

EVENTS

Garden Party Success

The First Annual AIA/UK Garden Party was held on 20 July in the elegant grounds of Syon Lodge, home of Crowther's Architectural Antiques. The event was well attended by over 70 people who enjoyed a warm evening of conversation and jazz.

September 25-30:
Annual RIBA v. AIA Golf Match at Royal St Davids, Harlech, Wales. Contact Bill Jack 071-631-4733.

November 17:
RIBA/RTPI Planning & Design conference commemorating the 1944 London Plan. Contact Meta van der Steege 071-580-5533.

The printing of **AIAUK** has been made possible through the generous and continued support of CALL PRINT LTD Reprographics

Committees

Public Policies: Roger Kallman, Chair, 071-930-9108.

Membership/Professional Services: Tom Giannini, Chair, 071-221-9296.

Communications/Publications: David Walker, Chair, 071-374-4371.

Programmes: Stephan Reinke, Chair, 081-748-8088.

Education: Dan Smith, Chair, 071-488-3340.

Nominations: Patricia Stephanowicz, Chair, 071-286-4505.

AIAUK

Number 2 July 1994

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

David Walker, Justine Kingham,
Editors

AIAUK, would like to hear from you. Please send comments, suggestions, and opinions to:

AIAUK
2 Hasker Street
London SW3 2LG
071-589-1387

AIALondon/UK

The First International Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
2 Hasker Street London SW3 2LG

MEMBERSHIP

cut here

Membership in the London/UK chapter of the AIA is over 60 architects. There continues to be considerable interest in membership, and in order to accommodate as many individuals as possible, we have established the following membership categories:

Architect: Individual licensed to practice architecture in the US.

Associate Member: Individual holding a professional degree in architecture without an architectural licence in the US, working under the supervision of a US-licensed architect.

Professional Affiliate: Individual representing an allied profession.

International Associate: Individual holder of architectural licence or equivalent from a non-US licensing authority.

Student Affiliate: Student pursuing a degree in architecture or urban design.

Please send me more information on membership in the London/UK chapter of the AIA.

Name

Mailing address

Town

Post code

Daytime telephone number

send to:

Ms Judy Nyquist
2 Hasker Street
London SW3 2LG
071.589.1387