

Newsletter

No 65 Fall 2011

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



AIA UK 2011 Annual Summer Gala

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

The AIA UK Chapter held its annual summer gala on the evening of 29th June, 2011 at the stunning Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea, London. The Saatchi Gallery has been at its new location since 2008 - inside the Duke of York's Headquarters off the King's Road, where the former Drill Hall has been stripped back to its shell to provide fifteen interconnected galleries on three levels. Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, the renovation architects, created minimal spaces where the art can be viewed with the architecture, both old and new, receding into the background. The setting provided the perfect backdrop for our annual summer event!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Saatchi Gallery, it was founded in 1985 by Charles Saatchi, the founder of advertising company Saatchi & Saatchi. He is also a sponsor for the Young British Artists, which includes artists such as Damien Hirst and Tracy Emin. His support for modern art which pushes boundaries and challenges artistic standards is manifested in his gallery as the exhibitions are always quite unique and in some cases, controversial as well. Saatchi bought and displayed one of Tracy Emin's most famous pieces, 'My Bed', which was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1999 and is currently on display in his own home.

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2011 Oxford Excursion

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

On September 16-18, AIA members and their guests attended two full days of walking and building tours in the city of Oxford. In total, there were 32 attendees, including two AIA Continental Europe members. The two days were full of tours to many important architectural sites - historical and modern - such as the Radcliffe Camera, the Bodleian Library, the Ashmolean Museum, St. Catherine's College, Oxford Botanic Gardens, the Florey Building, the Oxford Covered Market and St. John's College, including the recently opened Kendrew Quadrangle. We also enjoyed an afternoon lunch with punting and a gala dinner in the beautiful rooftop terrace of the Ashmolean Museum.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING TOUR

Clapham Manor Primary School
Wednesday, October 19th, 6:30pm

STUDENT DESIGN CHARRETTE

Architectural Association
Saturday, October 22nd

AIA UK SOCIAL NIGHTS

Bowling - All Star Lanes, Holborn
Monday, November 7th, 7-9pm

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Ricardo Legorreta
Tuesday, March 6, 2012
RIBA Headquarters, 6:30pm

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The AIA UK will be holding their annual election of officers and directors at the 2012 Annual General Meeting in January 2012. The evening will include a brief overview of the Chapter's activities over the past year as well as a discussion of what events are being planned for 2012. The AGM is also a chance to meet a wide range of AIA UK members and to visit the new showroom of Herman Miller, a long-time chapter supporter. It is important for as many members as possible to attend the AGM as it is a great opportunity to give feedback to the Board and influence the Chapter's plans for the next year.

If you are interested in getting involved with the chapter, please consider nominating yourself for a position on the board. You are welcome to make nominations for the board of directors and the four officer positions. For the officer positions, we would ideally prefer US licensed architects, but would also accept foreign licensed architects for nominations. The board of directors can be both licensed or non-licensed and all members of the board would normally be willing to attend board meetings and help with organizing events as well as bringing new ideas to the table.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another candidate please email AIA UK President Elizabeth Waters at ewaters@rtkl.com



2010 Student Design Charrette

2011 Student Design Charrette

Shannon Piatek, Assoc. AIA

The AIA UK Chapter is excited to announce that the Annual Student Design Charrette will be held on Saturday, 22 October 2011 at The Architectural Association (Bedford Square, central London) - who have kindly agreed to be the host venue again this year.

The annual charrette is a lively opportunity for students to 'limber up' early in the -academic year, as well as for recent graduates to revisit the experiences of the one-day design exercise. This year the AIA has coordinated with the British Institute of Interior Design to open the event to interior design students as well as architecture students. Participants will design collaboratively in teams of around 6 to 8 students, mentored by a seasoned practicing architect or interior architect.

This year's theme challenges students to explore how architectural form can create both expressive and rich interior spaces which heighten one's understanding of an overall concept or idea. The students will have access to a wide range of materials and large format printing thanks to the generous support of Callprint, who has been sponsoring this event for the last several years. At the end of the afternoon, team submissions will be discussed publicly, and prizes will be awarded to the three most compelling schemes by a jury chaired by Paul Finch OBE.

As in past years we are looking for AIA members to take part in this exciting event by serving as mentors. By volunteering for the day you will not only be drawn in and inspired by the design enthusiasm of some truly talented students, but also earn 6 CES credits in the process. If interested in volunteering as a mentor please contact chapterexecutive@aiauk.org.



2010 Student Design Charrette

Oxford Excursion, cont.

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

The weekend started on Saturday morning by touring Oxford on foot, focusing on historical sites and several of the colleges within Oxford University. The tours were led by the well-spoken and enthusiastic guides - David Lewis and Jennifer Johnson, PhD students at Oxford. Sites included the Bodleian Library, Radcliffe Square and the University Church, Radcliffe Camera, Christ Church college and New College. We also visited the longest portion of the medieval city wall, dating back to the early thirteenth century. We then continued onto the Ashmolean Museum, which was renovated by Rick Mather architects and opened in 2009 and shortlisted for the 2010 Stirling Prize. The project is a stunning renovation within an incredibly complex building. Patrick Berning and Stuart Cade of RMA led the tour and gave a brief presentation on other projects by Rick Mather in Oxford including Keble College, Queens College Library and Corpus Christi College.

We ended the day at St. Catherine's College, which is truly a masterpiece of modern architecture. The tour was led by Stephen Hodder, MBE, and Stirling Prize winner in 1996. The original buildings were designed by Arne Jacobsen in the early 1960s and Stephen Hodder's firm designed the equally gorgeous extension in 2005. The design shows structural rigor and clarity, very similar to the styles of Mies and Louis Kahn. The day was concluded with evensong at Keble College and a lively Gala Dinner at the stunning Ashmolean Museum's rooftop terrace - also designed by RMA.

On Sunday, we started the day with a tour of the courtyard gardens of Oxford led by James Edgar. Gardens included New College and the world-renowned Botanic Garden. We continued onto the Florey Building, Queen's college designed by Jim Stirling. The tour and presentation were led by Alan Berman, partner of BGS architects and author of 'Jim Stirling and the Red Trilogy: Three Radical Buildings.' Our lunch break was punting on the Thames, which was enjoyed by all attendees, even in the rain!

Our weekend concluded with a walking tour of the Oxford Covered Market and St. John's college. The Covered Market tour was led by conservation officers, Katharine Owens and Sarah Billam. The tour of St. John's was led by David Lewis, Phd Student and included the historic college as well as the modern Kendrew Quadrangle, designed by MJP Architects.

13 credits were available for the weekend excursion, so in two days, attendees could fulfil over half of their AIA CES credits. The early-bird price of £99 for food and tours proved to be quite a bargain! Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and the AIA UK chapter is looking forward to hosting its next city excursion in the fall 2012. We welcome all suggestions!



Ashmolean Museum



St. Catherine's College



Oxford Gardens - Photo by Toby Cisneros



2011 AIA UK OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA
Building Tours

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Fiona McKay
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London Library

AIA UK Building Tours

Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

Monthly building tours have continued into the fall, providing opportunities to visit unique buildings and sites around the capital. These tours provide practical knowledge concerning London specific issues, as well as units of CES / CPD accreditation. Recent tours have included Grimshaw's St. Botolph Building and Pottersfield Park Pavilions and Snowfields by DSDHA.

In September, the AIA UK hosted a London walking tour, which was conducted by Paul Hyett of HKS. This tour focused on the history of the Prince Regent's ambitious scheme that linked Carlton House to Regents Park. Along the way, Paul described how this masterplan was developed in the context of its pragmatic response to waning monarchical powers and great buildings engineering projects and institutions of the 19th and 20th centuries.

On September 20th, we held a tour of the award-winning London Library by Haworth Tompkins. This tour investigated the bold architectural response based on the client brief to incorporate half of mile of new shelving every year. While the main focus of the project is based around the Victorian Reading Room, Issue Hall and 1890s book stack, the whole site retains the feel of the bespoke, containing all the authentic idiosyncrasies of an historic institution.

A number of future tours are being scheduled and feedback or suggestions for buildings of interest are always appreciated and can be forwarded directly to wscaramucci@ahmm.co.uk.



London Walking Tour

Annual Summer Gala, cont.

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

The evening began with a brief talk from Lutron, the headline Summer Gala sponsors. They gave a lively presentation of their lighting systems and also handed out a hardback book to all attendees. Armstrong was also a sponsor of the event and had several representatives in attendance. We thank both of our sponsors for their generous support!

Attendees also attended a private guided tour of the exhibition "Shape of Things to Come: New Sculpture" with head curator, Patricia Ellis, as their guide. The pieces on display were composed, assembled, sewn, nailed, glued, stacked or layered from materials as different as clay, polished metal, fabric, plywood, dirt, horse hide, Styrofoam and found objects. The exhibition pushed the notions of the already expanded field of sculpture. The tour received rave reviews from all the attendees - Patricia was very knowledgeable and enlightened the guests on the meaning of the pieces as well as the inspiration of the artists. The exhibition will be on display until October 16, 2011, so I would highly recommend a visit to the gallery as it has received rave reviews from many art critics - it is definitely a must-see!

As the prosecco and canapes flowed throughout the evening, guests enjoyed live jazz music and interesting conversation amongst their colleagues, friends and partners. The AIA UK attracts not only American architects, but many British and international guests as well, creating a very diverse and culturally rich atmosphere for our events.

The AIA UK holds its annual summer gala each year in a unique and architecturally interesting venue, which can inspire intellectual conversation in and of itself. I think most people will agree that the Saatchi Gallery was a fantastic and inspiring venue for this year's gala, both for its art and architecture. We look forward to hosting our next gala in the summer of 2012 - watch this space!



Summer Gala photos courtesy of Agnese Sanvito

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Herman Miller

Armstrong

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The Floor is Yours

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LUTRON

AIA UK Chapter Social Nights

Justin Cratty, Assoc. AIA

As the AIA UK has grown over the past 20 years, so have the needs of our members. We have realized a need to create a platform where young architects can interact with a range of established professionals for further growth and development.

As a response, the AIA UK Chapter are planning to start hosting a series of events open to all members with the goal of creating a social platform to help foster the connection between all levels of practitioners. We look forward to seeing you at the first of these events - bowling night at All Start Lanes in Holborn on Monday, the 7th of November.

In addition to our social events, we are still supporting our emerging professionals with ARE study material that can be checked out for members taking their licensing exams. If you need study material please contact Brianne Page at bpage@kpf.com. If you have suggestions for interesting social events or if you would like to help organize one, please contact Justin Cratty at justin_cratty@gensler.com.

Oxford Excursion Photos



Kendrew Quadrangle - Photo by Toby Cisneros



Oxford Attendees - Photo by Toby Cisneros

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AIA UK Bike Tour

Alex Miller, Assoc AIA

The AIA UK took its annual bike tour on Saturday, August 6th, in Southeast London. We were very lucky with the weather and we had the perfect amount of people for safe city cycling.

We explored East London to uncover the architectural legacy starting at the Docks, moving onto the regeneration efforts at St Katharine's Docks and Wapping and ending at the Thames Barrier. The cyclists tackled the cobbled streets of Wapping to see the warehouses and filled-in dock basins that lead towards Shadwell, the Wapping Project and Tobacco Dock. We were also able to see the unique work of Hawksmoor at St George in the East and rode down Cable Street towards Limehouse and Poplar to see the sharp contrast of its high street with towering Canary Wharf beyond and onto the now controversial Robin Hood Gardens. While we could recognize the difficulties of the site, a 30-year resident of the building expressed his frustration with the council's maintenance of the building and its present condition. Afterwards, we stopped for lunch in a lovely pub on the river, only to enjoy mouth-watering burgers - at least all of our cycling made up for the extra calories!

We then continued through Greenwich and had a quick view of the stunning museums and scenery in Greenwich Park. For those of you who haven't visited Greenwich Park, it's a wonderful day out with the National Maritime museum, the Royal Observatory and stunning views over the city.

After trekking down and across the Greenwich foot tunnel we rode further down the river to the O2 and took in Ravensbourne College and its distinctive patterned façade by Foreign Office Architects. We cycled onwards to view the Thames Barrier, which is much more fascinating in person. I would recommend a visit to the Thames Barrier, along with the nearby Thames Barrier Park. This was a wonderful conclusion to fantastic cycling day out!

Our next bike tour will be in mid-summer of 2012. If you have suggestions for future cycling trips outside of London - please email chapterexecutive@aiauk.org.



Thames Barrier



Ravensbourne
College