



AIA UK 2011 Excellence in Design Awards Winners Announced!

Michael Lischer, FAIA

The annual AIA UK's Excellence in Design Awards Programme goes from strength to strength and is recognized for the high quality of entries and the variety of projects selected for award. By all accounts, the 2011 edition was a great success and culminated at the Awards Gala on the 13th of April. The capacity crowd at the Lilian Baylis Studio in London was entertained by presentations from each of the award winners, the 2011 jury, and Stef Kranendijk, CEO of the Desso, the Design Award's sponsor.

After the presentation of the awards, the swinging music from the jazz trio resumed and the wine flowed! Gala attendees took the opportunity to meet the winners and discuss their work during the reception that continued late into the evening.

The jury chose to award four winners in the professional category and one Noel Hill Student Travel Award. The professional category was for built projects completed in the last three years by UK based architects for projects anywhere in the world and for architects based anywhere in the world for projects constructed in the UK.

After much deliberation and discussion, the jury selected the following professional winners:

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Terry Pawson Architects

VISUAL - Centre for Contemporary Arts & The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow, Ireland

SMALL PROJECTS

Hugh Strange Architects

Strange House, London, England

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Zaha Hadid Architects

Guangzhou Opera House, Guangzhou, China

RENOVATION

Haworth Tompkins

The London Library, London, England

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Strange House



Centre for Contemporary Arts & The George Bernard Shaw Theatre

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



AIA UK Excellence in Design Awards, cont.

Michael Lischer, FAIA

In parallel with the professional awards, the chapter recognised future talent through the Noel Hill Student Travel Awards Programme. Entries are sought from students currently enrolled in UK universities for a portfolio of their work and a proposal for study/travel experience abroad.

This year a single award was given to Robin Flindell from Sheffield University. Robin will be using the £1500 prize to assist in his travels to Teotihuacan, near Mexico City and to The Forbidden City, Beijing, China. Robin will be continuing his research into a Universal Geometry by studying these cultures and their architectural archaeology.

The jury's input was insightful, invaluable and very much appreciated! This year's jury was composed of:

Deborah Bartlett, London 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority
Ruth Reed, RIBA President
Rik Nys, David Chipperfield Architects
Elizabeth Waters, AIA UK President / RTKL
John Barrow, Populous
David Nicholls, Desso

A special thanks to the Design Awards Programme sponsors, Desso Carpets. The Design Awards Programme is an annual event and has run continuously for 17 years. Be sure to watch for the "call for entries" next January !



Guangzhou Opera House



Guangzhou Opera House Interior



The London Library

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AIA UK 2011 Summer Gala

Elizabeth Waters, AIA



The AIA UK Chapter invites all members along with their colleagues and guests to celebrate the height of summer at an evening of art, architecture, music and conversation at the magnificent 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.

Summer Gala 2011 attendees will be presented with a private guided tour of "Shape of Things to Come: New Sculpture." The exhibition features the work of 20 leading and emerging international artists working in sculpture today.

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, these pieces push the notions of the already expanded field of sculpture.

Ticket prices include canapés, wine and private guided tour of "Shape of Things to Come: New Sculpture".

Please RSVP and purchase your tickets no later than Friday, 24 June 2011. Ticket forms and details can be found on our website at: www.aiauk.org/annual-summer-gala/

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AIA UK



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Institute of Architects



2011 AIA National Convention

Richard Spencer, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

This year's AIA National Convention was held in New Orleans from May 12-14. For those of you who have never been to a National Convention, it consists of three main parts. Firstly, there is AIA 'business,' which includes caucuses followed by elections for senior officers of the AIA, including First Vice President who will succeed to AIA President in a year and a half, together with discussion and voting on proposed bylaw changes and various resolutions. Voting is by component and the UK chapter had six votes based on our membership tally. The five overseas chapters together (UK, Continental Europe, Middle East, Hong Kong and Japan) have a significant block of votes and we discussed and coordinated our voting in the best interests of overseas members. There will be a full report on the business conducted in the next issue of 'Architect' magazine.

There is also the induction of a new class of AIA Fellows, which this year included Hong Kong chapter past president Dr. Christine Bruckner. The AIA put on its full pomp for the ceremony, held in an historic and impressive synagogue in the Garden District. Finally, there was the presentation of the AIA's Gold Medal, which was presented to the Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki, who proved a very popular choice judging from the number of standing ovations.

The second strand of activities at the Convention is a very extensive programme of continuing education events. These cover the entire range from highly technical construction issues, BIM usage, practice management, design studies and local building visits and walking tours. These events commence the day before the conference proper and continue throughout, running from very early and extending into the evenings, so it would be easily possible to gain four days' worth of CES credits. There were a number of tours of historic plantation mansions and the Lower 9th Ward, which is where much of the Katrina reconstruction is taking place. And thirdly, there is a very large exhibition area with stands from major and minor building component suppliers galore, CAD software companies, publishers and others.

For the international chapters there were a number of additional events to take advantage of being together in one place. In particular, a meeting with the AIA's international committee as well as a reception attended by the AIA's president and the presidents of other architectural institutes from around the world, such as Ruth Reed, RIBA president.

With so many events to choose from, AIA UK Chapter President Elizabeth Waters, Treasurer Justin Cratty and I were very busy representing the Chapter. Sampling the many delights of New Orleans, a city unlike any other in the US, had to be squeezed in somehow. Yet we managed to enjoy some wonderful food (in some surprising venues), sampled the local brew and listened to some of the jazz music, which originated in the Southern United States. Next year's convention will be held in Washington DC from May 17-19, so be sure to save the date!



Completed homes in the Lower 9th Ward, funded by the Make it Right Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING TOUR

Wednesday, June 22
Pottersfield Park Pavilions & Snowfields

SUMMER GALA

Wednesday, June 29
Saatchi Gallery
King's Road, London
Please RSVP to chapterexecutive@aiauk.org

BUILDING TOUR & LECTURE

Thursday, July 7
Farmlondon

BIKE TOUR

August - Date TBC
Location TBC

OXFORD EXCURSION

September 16-18
Oxford, England



2011 Design Awards
Images courtesy of Agnese Sanvito

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client Minerva. The attendees gained insight into the process of designing and constructing the building from both the client's and designer's perspectives.

One of the newest office developments in the City, St Botolph's is a 500,000 square foot highly adaptable commercial building. Placing the service cores at the edge of the floorplates allows for a dramatic stepped internal atrium, crossed by bridges connecting the central lift core to the floor plates. The location also helps to add flexibility in dividing the leasable space. The reception is a very generous double-height space, split over two levels for easier movement and clad in slender aluminium fins. The reception also provides for common meeting space, cafes and retail units. The group also learned about the innovative vertical circulation technology employed in the building, which allows two lift cars to run independently in each lift shaft. The TWIN lift system at St Botolph's is currently the largest single group of its kind in the world.

The next building tour will take place on Wednesday, June 22 at Pottersfield Park Pavilions and Snowfields by DSDHA. A guided walking tour of the two projects will be given by Deborah Saunt from DSDHA.

DSDHA were appointed by morelondon to design two pavilions adjacent to Pottersfield Park. The first pavilion, Parkside Pavilion, is situated to the rear of City Hall and accommodates a new cafe, public conveniences, ATM point, auxiliary storage for maintenance plant and associated vents to existing basement plant room. The second pavilion, Blossom Square, is beside Tower Bridge and the proposed site for the new Berkeley Homes development, and provides retail facilities and a sheltered seating area. Both buildings are made of stacked horizontal timber; one made of charred black timber, the other of a lightened calcified appearance with a green roof.

The design of Snowfields proposes a 3-storey addition to the existing ground floor and basement. The new storeys, along with the existing ground and basement,



form the jewellery studio providing sales, workshop, administration and meeting space. The scheme responds to its location as the terminus of a 5 storey terrace, its surrounding context within the Bermondsey Street Conservation Area and its historic location in a tannery district from where Snowfields draws its name. The design seeks to build on the qualities of the area whilst providing a contemporary, sustainable building that embodies high quality design and craftsmanship.

We look forward to seeing you there!

AIA UK Building Tours

Paul Kardous, Assoc. AIA &
Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

On March 31st, the AIA building tour series continued with Grimshaw's St Botolph Building in the City of London. The tour was guided by Partner Ewan Jones and Associate Andrew Byrne from Grimshaw with Alexander Morris, Project Director from

AIA UK Film Nights

Alex Miller, Assoc. AIA

In May, we gathered to watch *Hue & Cry*, one of the first Ealing Comedies. A lighthearted story about youths foiling a criminal plot, the young kids from the East End travel all across London to solve the case. Released in early 1947, the film is set in London directly after the war. The locations used throughout the film show the city after the abrupt change of war, and the way in which the people adapted to a changed city.

For summer, we've screened the blockbuster Hollywood film, *Inception*. The lavish set design and stunning, dynamic imagery showcases a vividly rendered imaginative world. At once, it is worth a step back from the flattery of Hollywood to the 'architect' as character type, and see what an architect is imagined to be capable of without the bounds of bricks and mortar reality. Everyone enjoyed the fast paced action and set design that uses a combination of digital effects and classic smoke & mirrors effects blended seamlessly into a highly immersive environment.



Oxford Excursion

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Preparations are steaming ahead for the Oxford excursion on 16-18 September! There are a full two days of tours and lectures, capped by a Gala dinner on the Saturday night. Highlights include a walking tour led by Dr Geoffrey Tyack, author of "Oxford: An Architectural Guide"; a tour of the Ashmolean Museum (Stirling Prize 2010 finalist) led by the office of Rick Mather, Stephen Hodder (Stirling Prize winner in 1996) showing us his expansion and renovation of the Arne Jacobsen designed St Catherine's college, Wilkinson Eyre showing us their Earth Sciences Laboratory and Alan Berman, author of "Jim Stirling and the Red Trilogy: Three Radical Buildings" will talk about his book and will lead us through Stirling's Florey building at Queens College.

The tour is terrific value and the AIA UK chapter offers an early-bird price of £99, which is open to AIA members and one guest. The price includes all tours, guides, lunches and the Saturday gala dinner. Early-bird registration closes on July 31, after which the member price is £149.

For further details and to book your tickets, please visit www.aiauk.org/oxford-excursion.



Ashmolean Museum



Florey Building

Architects and International Development

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

On Tuesday, April 19, Herman Miller, sponsors of the AIA UK Chapter, hosted yet another inspirational talk. Robin Cross, architect and acting CEO and Director of Projects at Article 25 spoke about the challenges of building and designing for disaster relief and poverty-ridden areas in international development. This lecture was the second in the series titled 'Community, Health and Global Awareness in Architecture', which was introduced by a lecture from Peter Williams of ARCHIVE.

Robin's talk began with a short history of the development of Article 25, which is an operational UK registered charity that designs, builds, and manages projects to provide better shelter wherever there is disaster, poverty, or need. Their organization continually challenges ideas about shelter and how architecture might act as a catalyst for development.

Robin presented several interesting development projects, including a post-earthquake school reconstruction in Haiti and a proto-type child friendly school in Sierra Leone. One interesting study was about the lack of resources to provide shelter in arid regions. One solution from Article 25 is to use mud bricks, but instead of using the local water supply - which is very precious - their alternative was to use human urine. With great satisfaction, the mud bricks were manufactured successfully!

The lecture created quite an interesting discussion afterwards and proved to be intellectually stimulating. We hope to reschedule the next Article 25 for the fall, so watch this space!



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