

Newsletter

No 69 Fall 2012

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



Photo by Toby Cisneros

Oxford Brookes University wins AIA UK Student Design Charrette

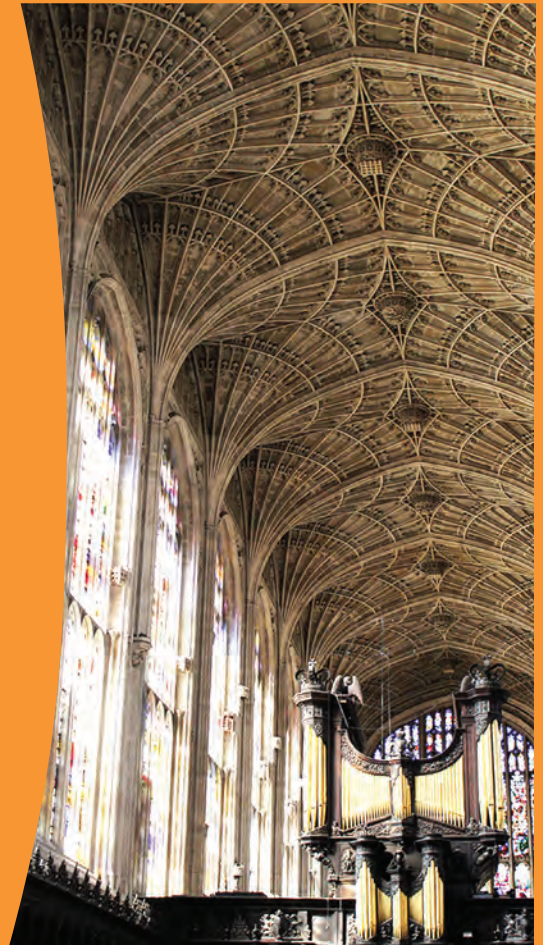
Brianne Page, AIA

For the second consecutive year, the AIA UK hosted the annual Student Design Charrette in collaboration with the British Institute of Interior Design. Over one hundred architecture and interior design students participated in the one day competition which investigated the re-use of the Lots Road Power Station, which was only a short walk away. The event was held at the Roca London Gallery by Zaha Hadid, thanks to our co-sponsors Laufen. All reprographic services for the day were provided by our loyal and long-term sponsor Callprint.

After a full day of debated ideas turning into drawings and models, the wide variety of designs were critiqued by a jury composed of Paul Finch OBE, Daniel Hopwood and Karin Templin. We would like to give a special thanks to Paul Finch for his final year chairing the jury, which he has done for as long as the AIA UK has been hosting the event. The jurors awarded Chelsea College of Art & Design and University of Liverpool third prize, Ravensbourne second prize, and Oxford Brookes first prize. Laufen displayed the winning scheme in their gallery following the charrette. Thank you to all the mentors who volunteered and to all the students who brought such energy and enthusiasm to the day.

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Cambridge Excursion

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

The annual AIA UK city tour visited Cambridge this year from 7-9 September. A group of nearly 30 AIA members, partners and friends had an action packed two days. The weekend was filled with building tours including Edward Cullinan's Maths Centre (where Stephen Hawking is based), Jim Stirling's seminal History Faculty Library, MJP's Burrells Field Residence Hall and Fitzwilliam College and Chapel, Mole Architects' New Studio Building for the School of Architecture and many others. The guests also enjoyed a gala dinner on the Saturday evening and punting on the River Cam - surprisingly during one of the hottest weekends of the year!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 16th, 6:30 pm
Herman Miller Showroom
61 Aldwych, London WC2B 4AE

FILM NIGHT

"Utopia London"
Tuesday, January 29, 7pm
BFI Screening Room, 21 Stephen Street

BUILDING TOUR

Dixon Jones' Quadrant 3
Thursday, February 28th, 6:30pm

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS

April, Date TBC

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As 2013 is rapidly approaching, the Board Committee is looking for members interested in serving on the 2013 AIA UK board of directors. The new board is elected into office at the Annual General Meeting, which is taking place on Wednesday the 16th of January at the showroom of Herman Miller, a long-time chapter supporter. 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 the new year. Check the website for details.

If you are interested in helping the AIA UK chapter or would like to nominate someone, please contact membership chairman, Michael Lischer, at ml@sportconcepts.net or 020 7917 1702.



Student Design Charrette - Photo by Toby Cisneros



AIA UK Building Tours

Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

Over the past year, AIA UK organised eight London-based building tours, showcasing a number of the city's exemplar buildings and architects. Recent tours included the Canada Water Library by CZWG Architects as well as the City of Westminster College by Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects.

October 2012 saw the culmination of the series, with a tour of Heron Tower by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates. This commercial project provides a marker to the northern edge of the city core, with the face of the building revealing itself as series of three story "villages" within. Architect Paul Simovic led the tour and explained how the buildings slender lift core is animated by the movement of glazed lift cars, two of which provide access to the new public restaurant at roof level as well as the public space at the base of the building.

Next year's schedule will commence in February with a visit to Dixon Jones's award winning Quadrant 3, in the heart of the City of Westminster. Suggestions for future building tours are very welcome and should be directed to chapterexecutive@aiauk.org

AIA International Region

Michael Lischer, FAIA

Since creating the International Region (IR) through a bylaws change at this year's AIA National convention, the steering task group has continued its efforts in order to suggest how the IR should be organized and governed. Their report has been submitted to the National AIA board for discussion at the December board meeting. Among the suggestions are:

- The IR should be governed by an executive committee and board of directors chosen from the "overseas" membership and international chapters.
- An interim board of directors, to serve through 2013, should be appointed. Their role will be to draft the IR bylaws defining the details of the region's governance.

Elections for the various IR positions are expected to take place in 2014.

Andrew Whalley presents “New York, Ten Years On”

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

The AIA UK Chapter and Grimshaw Architects hosted a lecture by Andrew Whalley entitled ‘New York, Ten Years On’ on the evening of 8th November, 2012. Etain Fitzpatrick, the 2012 AIA UK President, gave a brief introduction to Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, who proceeded to tell a few anecdotes about his experience with Americans, much to the crowd’s amusement. Sir Nicholas then introduced Andrew Whalley, who is the Deputy Chairman of Grimshaw Architects and plays a vital role in the success of Grimshaw’s New York Office. He also worked on several well-known projects in the UK such as the Eden Project, the International Terminal at Waterloo and the redevelopment of Paddington station.

Whalley began his lecture by noting that Grimshaw Architects have quite a strong presence in the realm of public infrastructure in NYC as they have designed and built new bus shelters and bike racks within the city. He then continued to speak about the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Centre (EMPAC) at the Rensselaer Institute in Troy, New York, which was designed to showcase a free-standing concert hall wrapped in timber and housed within a building almost entirely composed of glass. This building is a stunning addition to the landscape and showcases views over the city.

Whalley continued by giving an overview of many projects, both built and unbuilt, by the New York office. One interesting building was the Queens Museum of Art, which displays a detailed model of New York City, showing each and every building – something that everyone should make an effort to see! The Museo del Acero was yet another highlight of the talk as this building is an adaptive reuse project which was designed in and around one of the three original blast furnaces in Monterrey’s Parque Fundidora. The concept truly embraces the landscape and elegantly expresses the industrial rawness of the original building. The furnace becomes a focal point of the museum by becoming part of an interactive exhibit.

The lecture concluded with a discussion of the toils of Hurricane Sandy and how it affected the NY office and his family, but luckily they had regained power and everyone was safe. Nonetheless, Whalley was stepping on a flight later to go back into another Nor’easter storm! But before he set off for the US, all attendees were invited to enjoy canapés and conversation with both Andrew Whalley and Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, thanks to the hospitality of the Grimshaw Architects. The evening was informative, inspirational and enjoyable – a true success!



Andrew Whalley



Experimental Media and Performing Arts Ctr.
Photo by Peter Aaron, Esto



Museo del Acero
Photo by P. Rivera, Archphoto



Photos courtesy of Grimshaw Architects

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Cambridge Excursion, cont.

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

It was a privilege to have the original architect or architect responsible for the project lead each tour. Matthew Goulcer of Levitt Bernstein led us through their innovative and detailed renovation of Leslie Martin's Harvey Court, an underrated modernist masterpiece. Johnny Winter of Edward Cullinan introduced the successful program solutions required for the complex Centre of Mathematics. Edward Jones, of Dixon Jones, showed us around his Darwin College Study Centre, which many in the group considered to be the best project of the weekend.

The Saturday gala dinner was held in the Saltmarsh Rooms of Kings College, with fantastic evening views towards historic Kings Chapel. The weekend also included a walking tour of historic Cambridge giving an overview of all periods of architectural development. Finally, the excursion would not have been complete without a session of punting on the River Cam!

In short a terrific weekend was had by all and we were pleased to have a few guests from Grohe, the sponsors of the event. We thank them for their support of this fabulous weekend and hope to see them again next year. Suggestions for city excursions in 2013 are welcome!



Edward Cullinan's Centre of Mathematics, photo by Toby Cisneros



Photo by Toby Cisneros

'Cross the Pond' Exhibition British Council Showcase

Etain Fitzpatrick, AIA

As part of the British Council's International Showcase of Architecture and Design, the AIA UK joined with AIA New York to exhibit the winners of their respective Annual Design Awards Programs at Central St. Giles designed by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop. The exhibition was displayed in a soon to be occupied retail unit with 4.5 meter glass exterior walls surrounding the entire space. Boards were displayed on the glass facing outwards creating an inside-out exhibition that could be viewed 24 hours a day!

The AIA UK Excellence in Design Awards Competition attracted the largest number of submissions in the eighteen year history of the programme. The Jury was unanimous in its view that the entries represented a remarkable level of quality. Four projects were selected for an 'award' and five for 'design commendations'. In parallel with the professional awards the AIA UK recognizes emerging future talent with the Noel Hill Student Travel Award, two winners were selected this year. Projects had to be completed by AIA UK or other UK architects for projects built in the UK and abroad.

The AIA New York Chapter's Design Awards selected thirty-six projects, representing exceptional work by AIA New York Chapter members and other architects in four categories: architecture, interiors, unbuilt work, and urban design. Each winning project, granted either an "honour" or "merit" award, was chosen for its exemplary originality and quality. Criteria considered by the juries included design quality, program resolution, innovation, thoughtfulness, and technique. Projects had to be completed by architects/designers practicing in New York, or be New York City designed projects.

We were pleased to celebrate the exhibition on Thursday the 20th of September where the unit was opened up and a slide show of the winning entries was projected onto the interior concrete core. Many thanks to Mike Dawson and Central St. Giles for donating the space and AIA NY for shipping their Boards across the Pond.



Exhibition photos courtesy of Toby Cisneros



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AIA UK Bowling Night

Justin Cratty, AIA

As the temperature drops colder and the nights grow longer, it was time for the second annual AIA UK Bowling Night. The participants gathered on the eve of the 26th of November at the All Star Lanes in Holborn, and ranged in both bowling and architecture experience, from beginners to pro-bowlers.

Over 25 members of the AIA community came out to test their wits against the 10 pin nemesis. While there were some spin bowlers and some 'between the legs' granny magic, we managed to have a brilliant evening. In the first game of bowling we had a clear ringer amongst us when Retha Swanepoel of Gensler bowled an impressive 142. By the second game the libations affected our skills for better or worse when John Spicer of Armstrong took the high score of 122.

This great evening was made possible in part by the sponsorship of Smart Glass International. As this year's closes, we are looking ahead for more great social events in 2013. If you have any idea or would like to help organize a fun night out please contact chapterexecutive@aiauk.org

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Bright Thinking



Bowling Night, Photo by Toby Cisneros



Bike Tour

AIA UK

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AIA UK Film Nights

Alex Miller, Assoc. AIA

With the return of winter darkness, the AIA film series concluded the year with screenings of "Surviving Progress" and "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth."

"Surviving Progress" went to great lengths to illustrate how in certain cases, as with deforestation, there are situations where progress is only short-term. This provided further insight into the now globally interconnected society that is less tolerant to failure. This film, which was presented primarily as a series of interviews, served as an interesting pairing with our previous screening of "Koyaanisqatsi," a graphic musical montage without commentary.

"The Pruitt-Igoe Myth" is a documentary which further explores the demolition of the Pruitt-Igoe housing complex in St. Louis. Footage of this demolition also features prominently in "Koyaanisqatsi." The film interviews residents of the housing complex and their emotional memories, both harsh and fond. It also examines how the fortunes of the city over time and the greater social trends influenced its fall into disrepair, and demise.

The 2013 film series is well underway with the next film on Tuesday, January 29th, 2013. We hope to see you there!

AIA UK Bike Tour

Alex Miller, Assoc. AIA

This year's bike tour focused on the Kent Medway. We arrived by train in Chatham, where we began cycling through the city centre and out to the Historic Dockyards. Participants were enchanted by the collection of historic buildings, from the early Victorian iron sheds and granite block slipways where ships were assembled to the buildings serving specific functions, like the ¼ mile-long ropewalk building. We had a brief introduction to extreme minimal living and tight space standards by touring the 1960's diesel electric submarine, The Ocelot.

The group cycled onwards to a Napoleonic fort overlooking the harbour and across to neighbouring Rochester, with its impressive Castle, Cathedral and historic high street. After visiting the closely grouped urban areas, we pedaled onwards into the countryside winding over the landscape into Gravesend before returning to London.

Our next bike tour will be summer 2013. Please email any bike tour suggestions to chapterexecutive@aiauk.org.

