

# Newsletter

No 74 Summer 2014



AIA UK

A Chapter of  
The American  
Institute of Architects

## Tale of Two Cities: London Conference

Lester Kozilius; AIA, RIBA

The UK and CE chapters held a joint international conference in London from 10-14 April. It was attended by more than 100 people and attendance was evenly split between the UK, CE and US components. Opening festivities on the Thursday were held in the Booking Office bar at the Renaissance Hotel at St Pancras which provided a perfect backdrop of old and new. Friday saw an action packed day in the Kings Cross area with tours of St Pancras, the Kings Cross Station, Dixon Jones' Guardian office building, a tour of Stanton Williams' University of the Arts, and a talk by Argent on the development of Kings Cross. Tired, but happy, delegates then had a delicious fish & chips dinner hosted by Laufen.

The action continued on Saturday in the London Bridge area with Fred Manson (former chief Southwark planner) discussing the redevelopment of the area, presentations on the Shard by former RPBW project architect William Matthews, the redevelopment of London Bridge Station by Grimshaw, a tour and presentation by Foster and Partners on More London, an historic walking tour led by the ever ebullient Benny O'Looney, and a tour of the Shard including the viewing platform. Phew! Delegates plus another 50 guests converged in the evening for a fabulous gala dinner at the British Museum. AIA National President Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA gave a brief keynote talk.

A bright and early start on Sunday focused on the Olympics, starting with a presentation on the legacy development from the Olympic Games. We then went on building tours of Hadid's work of structural bravado at the Aquatics Centre and the stunning Velodrome by Hopkins, followed by a tour of Make's Copper Box Arena.

For those still standing on the Monday there was an extension day that focused on North London with tours of Highgate and Hampstead.

A total of 26.5 hours of CES credits were available for the conference. UK event sponsors were Laufen, Grohe, WSP, and Kone and without their help the conference would not have happened. Please consider them on your next project! The consensus was that the conference was a tremendous success. Well done team!



Zaha Hadid's Aquatic Center - Olympic Park



Renzo Piano Building Workshop's The Shard  
and Blomfield's Southwark Cathedral

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photo by Toby Cisneros



John McAslan + Partners King Cross Renovation



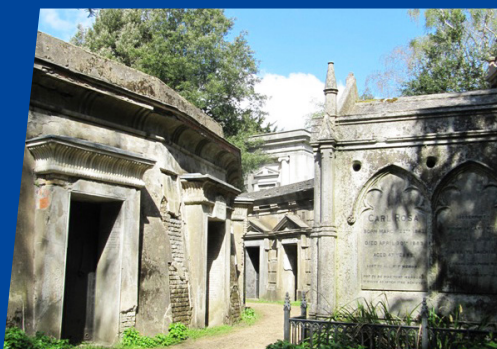
Grand Staircase St Pancras  
Renaissance Hotel

## London Conference: Extension Day Lorraine King, AIA

The AIA Continental Europe Chapter has a long tradition of organising bi-annual weekend conferences in key European cities, often including an optional Monday “extension” for attendees who plan to stay over a few extra days. With this year’s joint UK and Continental Europe Chapter’s “Tale of Two Cities” Conference in London, it was decided to honour that CE tradition and include an Extension Day of our own with a look at some of the city’s less well known tourist attractions.

After debating several options, it was finally decided to contrast the Conference’s main focus on urban regeneration with a look at some of the city’s suburban tourist attractions. When the Highgate Society members Michael Hammerson and Richard Webber offered to hold a short talk on the garden city movement and the history of Highgate – with some serious digressions on modern planning concerns – the stage was set for a tour of London’s leafy and hilly northern fringes. After a quick introduction to Highgate, it was inevitable that the Highgate West Cemetery would be the next destination. The director of the cemetery, Dr Ian Dungavell, kindly gave the AIA a specialist tour, focusing on conservation issues and opening up areas of the cemetery not usually seen by the general public.

The next visit was to Kenwood House for a leisurely outdoor lunch and a flyby tour of the recently renovated stately home, complete with Rembrandt, Vermeer, and a splendid Robert Adams library. The afternoon was spent touring Hampstead Village residential streets with Architecture Historian Marilyn Greene, focusing on 20th century modern houses and some hidden gems off the familiar paths. For those attendees who had the stamina to complete the hill climbing full day - and admittedly it was an ambitious programme – it was a marvelous day out and a fitting extension to the main event.



Highgate West Cemetery



Kenwood House



Highgate West Cemetery

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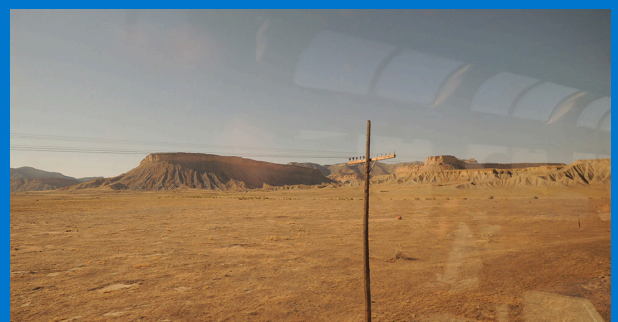
## Noel Hill Scholarship Winner Travels the United States

Ishbel Mull, 2012 Student Award Winner

During the 2013 summer, thanks in a big part to the Noel Hill Travel Award, I took a two month road trip around the United States. My friend and I travelled through 22 states, commencing and ending in New York, via a combination of trains and more than one hundred hours of driving. The idea behind crossing the country on the ground was to try and gain an understanding of how cities and towns are structured within tremendous space. How an architect could tackle the design process when there is no obvious urban 'grain', and a seeming lack of immediate context is something I grappled with in East Tilbury in Essex, at undergraduate and have taken forward during my Part II, where I am focussing on the Fens of East Anglia. This 'emptiness' and collapse of scale it permits is both liberating and a big challenge.

Before this trip I had only visited Manhattan and was aware that the relentless density of everything there was the anomaly; even just crossing the bridge to Brooklyn on our second day provided the initial contrast stark enough to highlight this fact. We then boarded a 19 hour train to Chicago, and from Chicago we took the California Zephyr, a 72 hour train to San Francisco. This leg of the journey, despite later facing the heat of the south and the food deserts of Texas, was by far the most intense and unusual experience of the trip. To save money we slept in our upright seats in a carriage with 60 others, we ate in the dining car once a day and dashed to vending machines in the short stops at train stations across the mid-west. We had almost 72 hours worth of conversations with the other travellers which was a demographic that included an Amish couple on their honeymoon, an ex-convict and a NYC jazz band.

Through the window of the '360 viewing carriage' we saw farmland, desert, mountains, canyons and crossed the Mississippi River. We hovered on the periphery of Salt Lake City at 3am and waited for lost luggage for three hours in Ottumwa. When we stepped off the train in San Francisco we felt quite shell-shocked to have left the Amtrak confines. But despite the physical limits of the train, I don't think there could have been a better way to grasp an understanding of all that American space and the social, political and climatic differences that it covers. So, a huge thank you to the AIA for supporting my journey!





AIA UK President Justin Cratty and AIA UK Board Member Etain Fitzpatrick at the AIA Presidents' Reception

## AIA National Convention 2014

Michael Lischer, FAIA

Nearly 20,000 delegates descended on Chicago this past June for the AIA's annual National Convention. Among them were our own AIA UK board members Etain Fitzpatrick and Justin Cratty. In addition to the usual social events, Etain and Justin represented the Chapter at the very first members' meeting of the newly created International Region (IR).

Etain and Justin also represented the AIA UK at the annual business meeting on Saturday morning where convention delegates gave final approval to a plan that restructures the Institute's governance. A bylaw amendment was passed that will reduce the size of the Institute's Board of Directors and augment the AIA's governance structure by adding a new body, the Strategic Council, which will inform the Board and other Institute bodies of important professional issues. These changes are designed to make the AIA's leadership structure more nimble and better able to respond to the Institute's challenges and opportunities. "This new governance structure will make sure the AIA can speak with a clearer voice, move quicker to address its members' concerns, and better represent its membership," said 2014 AIA President Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA.

Delegates also voted several new members to the national board's executive committee including the new first vice president and president elect, Russell A. Davidson, FAIA. Russell is from New York and will become the Institute's 91st president in 2016. Mark your calendars for the 2016 National Convention which takes place on May 14 - 16 in Atlanta, Georgia!

## Legal Panel and Discussion

Michael Lischer, FAIA

On the evening of the fourth of June AIA UK chapter members and guests filled the presentation room at Herman Miller's London showroom. The event was a "compare and contrast" panel discussion on legal matters of interest to architects, from both the USA and English perspectives. On the panel were Gunther Carle, Esq. and Rich Davies, Esq. from Philadelphia based Powell, Trachtman, Carle & Lombardo, and Tom Pemberton and James Hutchinson from London based Beale and Company. Also on the panel was Greg Taylor, an expert on UK professional indemnity insurance from Griffiths & Armour. The panel was moderated by chapter member, Michael Lischer.



The presentations generated a lively discussion on topics such as third party warranties, professional liability exposure, collecting unpaid fees, and professional indemnity coverage. Of particular interest was a discussion on American versus English levels of damages awarded for injuries. The conclusion; if you get hurt, you want to be in America! Interestingly, there are many more similarities than differences when it comes to construction law, although, the terminology is often different! Greg Taylor stressed the importance of including your insurance carrier in contract negotiations. This will help to ensure you are covered for all of the risks the contract imposes on you. Or at least, you will know what your risk exposure is!

Special thanks go to Herman Miller for hosting the event and to Shazia Sheikh and Joelle McLachlan for taking great care of us! Judging by the number of questions addressed by the panel during the Q&A, the topics presented generated a lot of interest. It was suggested the chapter organize a follow-up lecture to continue these discussions. Things are in the "works", so watch this space!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AIA UK LECTURES

Wednesday, December 10  
6:30 - 8:00 pm, place TBC  
for details go to [www.aiauk.org](http://www.aiauk.org)

### STUDENT DESIGN CHARETTE

Saturday, October 18  
for details go to [www.aiauk.org](http://www.aiauk.org)

### CITY EXCURSION

Tale of Two Cities:  
Paris Conference  
"The Anticipated Urban Thaw"  
October 23-26; [www.aiaeurope.org](http://www.aiaeurope.org)

### FILM NIGHTS

Wednesday, October 22, 7 pm  
Wednesday, November 19, 7 pm  
BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN

### BUILDING TOUR

Thursday, November 13, 6:30 pm  
TBC



London Conference - The View  
from the Shard, photo by Toby Cisneros

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## 2014 AIA Bike Tour

Lorraine King, AIA

The annual AIA Bike Trip on 5 July 2014 – took off on a fine if rather bracing day for exploring Britain's south coast.

Our first stop was Hastings and our guide, Architect and Historian, Benedict O'Looney, with his usual perspicacity, linked provincial buildings to the wider architecture scene from the Regency and Victorian eras to the modern period. For this trip, he was also able to bring in references to Pre-Raphaelite paintings, other decorative traditions and even the geology of southern Britain.



American Ground, 5th of July

Although Hastings has always been somewhat over shadowed by Brighton, over the years it has still attracted the finest architects and artisans. In the area called "America Ground" – land reclaimed from the sea and declared independent by local squatters – they left a legacy of little gems for us to rediscover. Powered by a blustering wind, we also explored the Hastings seafront, viewed its fire damaged pier and zoomed past a line of speculative seaside hotels and neighbourhood squares.

After visiting the modern Jerwood Gallery set in Hastings' old town context offishing boats and vernacular net huts, we had a traditional lunch of fish and chips. We then geared ourselves for The ASCENT to the top of the Fairlight cliffs and the spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. Needless to say, The DESCENT to Petts Levels was worth the price of admission.

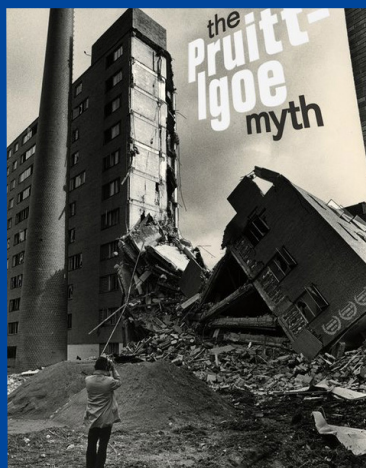
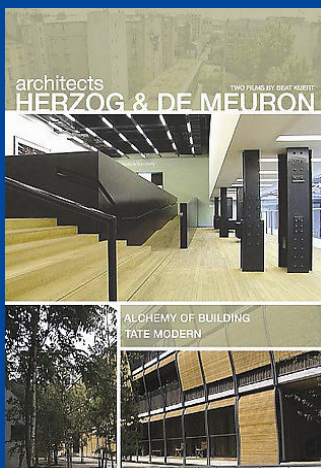
Safely down to the Romney Marshes, we headed to the coastal village of Winchelsea. Its sad history of climatic disasters, unfinished village planning and truncated churches led one earlier historian to call it the "shadow of the shade." However, despite never reaching its highest potential – and despite Pevsner's justified criticism that the church's window tracery was "grotesquely over cusped" – it turned out to be a charming place with no hint whatsoever of sinister dangers.

As we reached Rye, the weather turned wet and we ended up with a somewhat curtailed tour before calling it a day at a local pub. While thoroughly enjoying the comfort of food and drink, we all still regretted that we had neither the energy nor the daylight left to explore Rye's heritage. If you are interested in bike touring and have suggestions for next year's tour, please let us know.



Winchelsea





## AIA UK Film Nights

Chris Musangi, AIA

The 2014 film series resumes at the BFI this Autumn after a short Summer break. We shall start the last half of the film series in late October with the screening of 'The Pruitt-Igoe Myth.' This is a documentary about a large public housing estate project in St. Louis, designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki, who also designed the World Trade Centre towers and Lambert St. Louis International main terminal.

Closing the 2014 film series, we will return to our home city of London with the documentary 'Architects Herzog and de Meuron: Alchemy of Building Tate Modern' in Mid-November. This is a documentary about a building many of us are very familiar with but might not be familiar with how the designs and completed spaces were realised. The documentary explores the astonishing effect of the Pritzker Prize-winning Swiss architectural teams' work and collaboration.

All movies will be at the BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN at 1900hrs. Please look to the [aiauk.org](http://aiauk.org) website & Eventbrite for the exact screening dates, and we look forward to seeing you at the screenings!



photos by Toby Cisneros

London Bridge Walking Tour



Delegates enjoying The View from The Shard

## Membership Update, Michael Lischer, FAIA

Membership continues to increase and stands at a new high of 205 members! Since the annual lapsing of unpaid members in March, we added 12 new members. I'm pleased to welcome the following to the AIA UK! Grace Catenaccio, Assoc. AIA, Khuzema Hussain, AIA, Kent Jackson, AIA, Soner Keskinel, Assoc. AIA, Michael Powers, AIA, Lawrence Quinn, AIA, Amrita Raja, Assoc. AIA, Joseph Shaw, Assoc. AIA, James Sherman, Assoc. AIA, Eric Smith, AIA, Paul Weston, Int. Assoc. AIA, and Diana Yu, Assoc. AIA.

We look forward to meeting our new members at one of our upcoming functions!

## AIA International Region (IR) Update

Etain Fitzpatrick, AIA

On June 26th the AIA International Region held its first Annual General Meeting at the AIA Convention. The meeting was well attended with over thirty people present, including AIA UK representatives, Secretary Etain Fitzpatrick, AIA and AIA UK President Justin Cratty, AIA.

AIA IR President Christine Bruckner, FAIA, gave an overview of the progress of the AIA IR to date and announced the AIA International Region Awards program to be launched at the end of the summer. Christine noted that the AIA IR is actively looking for sponsors and stated there are 5+ interested sponsors to date. Treasurer, Thierry Paret, FAIA gave a brief summary of the AIA IR budget which was a preliminary forecast, including estimates for AIA IR Board Officers Travel, the Awards Program and a staff member. The AIA IR has levied a dues assessment on the International Region Chapters of \$9 per member and expects these dues costs to be absorbed by the Chapters as part of their operating budgets. Secretary, Etain Fitzpatrick, AIA announced the launch of the AIA IR quarterly newsletter. The first issue was distributed in June, the next issue will be in September.

The first election cycle was held to elect the next AIA International Region Secretary. We are proud to announce that AIA UK Board Member Lester Korzilius, AIA has been elected to this two-year position and will commence January 1, 2015. In addition the AIA UK is next in line to propose a Director for Zone 1. This post will commence January 1, 2015 and is a two-year position. If you would like to nominate yourself for this position please contact the AIA UK at [chapterexecutive@aiauk.org](mailto:chapterexecutive@aiauk.org).



Conference Delegate enjoying Olympic Diving Practice Well

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