

AIA London/UK · news

The First International Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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The 12th Annual Excellence in Design Awards

The AIA London Chapter's 2006 Design Awards were announced on the evening of 28 March at the Royal Society of Arts. The audience was entertained with short speeches from Christine McEntee, the Chief Executive of the American Institute of Architects who had flown in from New York for the occasion, and Bob White, Chairman of MACE who has been a continuing sponsor of the awards. The evening was opened by Bea Sennewald, President of the UK AIA, and concluded by Chris Gaylord, a Director of AIA London/UK who organised and coordinated the whole Design Awards Event for 2006.



Bob White (L) Chairman of MACE, and AIA London Awards sponsor, with award winner Chris Wilkinson at awards reception, the RSA

From the large number of entries covering wide variety of building types, the jury of nine headed by Louisa Hutton of Sauerbruch Hutton, selected five winners and three commendations. In addition there were two recipients of the Noel Hill Travel Awards for students of architecture at UK universities.

In contrast to previous years there were a large number of community project entries, where previously commercial and residential buildings have taken precedence. Hopefully this shows a trend of local councils to approach these projects with consideration to creating quality public environments as well as affordability.

The emphasis of space and natural light featured in many projects which produces a 'feel-good' factor for both the architectural teams as well as the new users in the projects. Resilient, hard-wearing yet low cost materials were also highlighted in several entries. It was noticeable that all the winning projects followed the client's original brief and brought it to a full conclusion in a creative yet enduring way, showing respect and trust in the relationship between the two parties.

A member of each of the winning teams gave a short slide presentation and talk about their individual projects highlighting various aspects of their work.

Murray Fraser of the University of Westminster presented the Noel Hill Travel Awards to the winning pair of Kenny Tsui & Masaki Kakizoe from the Bartlett School of Architecture for their project on a Therapeutic Centre in China. A second Student prize was awarded to John Imeson of Nottingham University for his work on a community building in Ghana. The students received cheques to assist funding study / travel related to this work.

Award winning projects are summarised on page 2. The three commended projects were the Fawood Children's Centre, London, by Alsop Architects; the Central School for Speech and Drama, London, by Jestico & Whiles; and The Arc in Hull by Niall McLaughlin Architects.

CES Credit for RIBA Events

If you attend an RIBA event you can self-report the event, identifying the RIBA as the provider. A CPD accord was negotiated by RIBA-USA and signed between RIBA and AIA in 1997 that allow CPD or CE from either body to count on a one for one basis world wide.

The RIBA provider number is (D007). Unfortunately the RIBA does not keep logs of who attends their events, so self reporting is required. As always, events that you attend hosted by AIA London/UK will be reported for you by the Chapter.

upcoming events

Events this year (currently in planning) represent both an opportunity to explore the rich architectural environment in London, and throughout the UK, and in doing so to earn a total of 35.5 CES Credits.

Tate Modern: Albers & Moholy-Nagy From the Bauhaus to the New World

The AIA has arranged a private lecture and slide show for members and guest on the history of the Bauhaus and the themes and ideas behind the current exhibition.

The exhibit centres on two pioneers of Modernism: German-born Josef Albers (1888-1976) and Hungarian-born László Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946). It tracks their careers from their time teaching at the Bauhaus to their immigration to the US and how they brought the Modernist ideas from Europe to the New World. After the lecture guests can view the exhibit at their leisure.

Date: Saturday the 29th of April 2006

Time: The tour will meet at 11:30pm on level 1 of Tate Modern by the private tour meeting point.

Location: Tate Modern is located on the south bank of the River Thames at Bankside easily reached by the Jubilee Line (Southwark) and District and Circle Lines (Blackfriars).

Cost: Member will be asked to cover the cost os admission only. The group rate price is £7.

CES Credit: 2

RSVP to chapterexecutive@aiauk.org or phone 020 7839 2006

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AWARD WINNERS, Jury Comments

Terminal Four, Barajas Airport Richard Rogers Partnership

The building "lifts the spirits"

The building show great humanity in its design, precision and passion in its vision and the quality of its construction

There is evident craftsmanship in the design and execution

A true "building as city" – building designed on clear urban design principles



Donnybrook Quarter Peter Barber Architects

New ideas about urban density

Clear handling of open space from public through semipublic, semi-private to private

Reworking terrace typology – very successful, where many others have failed

Single-minded commitment to reinventing housing, showing how a mixed-tenure scheme could work with no distinction or preference

Overcome great technical difficulties in achieving such density (access, privacy, natural light, security, vehicular movement etc)



John Perry Children's Centre

Great care and inventiveness - magical spaces for children

Shows that "the imagination can win over technical requirements" (e.g. cantilever)

Well-built, with a practical approach (repetition, expandability, simplicity)

Uses low cost materials inventively, well-judged and under-stated i.e. not pretentious Good use of spaces.



City and Islington College Wilkinson Eyre Architects

Clear concept boldly executed – concepts are legible in the finished building

Very powerful facades all around the building – each façade is particular to its situation and vary around building – front facade strips away to reveal interior Has robust architectural integrity - interiors similarly honest with exposed structure etc

Integration of new and existing buildings, while clearly demarcating the two

Greatly improves the urban setting and is a strong magnet for people and activity



Phaeno Science Centre Zaha Hadid Architects

Breathtakingly ambitious and inventive – spatially, structurally, and visually

Continuous surfaces draw the public through

- fundamental for a public building

Sculpturally fascinating – craftsmanship is apparent in its construction

Takes advantage of superb site to create new landmark for the city

Good use of the space below the building for public space

Building and public space very suited to its use.

upcoming events ...continued

Fawood Children's Centre 9th of May 12:30

A private tour for AIA members and guests has been arranged of the award winning children's centre designed by Alsop Design. The centre with its colourfully vibrant tent-like structure was designed to form the focal point of a regenerated London estate.

May

National Gallery, East Wing

A private tour for AIA members and guests has been arranged of the renovated East Wing of the National Gallery. The tour, lead by Dixon Jones, will explore the newly created spaces, including the new East Entrance off Trafalgar Square leading into the renovated Portico Entrance Hall.

Also in the works for this summer:

Both a bike tour and walking tour with Benny

O'LOONEY, Architect and Lecturer in Architecture History at the Architectural Association

Details will follow on more events throughout the summer, for queries, email: info@aiauk.org

Urban Eyrie: a Haven in the City Royal Academy of Arts until 22 May

AIA London member Claire Weldin won 3rd prize in an international competition sponsored by World Architecture News and the Royal Academy.

Titled Urban Eyrie, the exhibition can be seen at the Royal Academy in the "Architecture on the Ramp" gallery. If your in the neighbourhood and would like to view the winners, the exhibition is free.

International Director Notes

The first year of my two year term as International Director is well under way and I thought it would be useful to outline several of the key goals of my tenure. These are

- Enhanced communication between the International Chapters and with National.
- Pursue the establishment of off shore locations for administering the Architect's Registration Exam (ARE).
- Undertake a survey of the 1,400 overseas AIA members.

I am pleased to report some progress on these issues!

- 1. An E room has been established specifically for officers for the International Chapters to communicate and share information.
- 2. An international Chapters meeting and reception will take place on the Thursday evening at the Convention in Los Angeles. This is a new event and is in addition to the existing events hosted by the International Committee. You are all invited!
- 3. I initiated discussion with the NCARB and discovered international testing locations are already on their agenda. The time frame is one and half to two years. More on this in a future article.
- 4. I am discussing the survey content and administration of the survey with the appropriate people at National.

That's all for this issue! Feel free to contact me at any time with your questions and comments, and I hope to see some of you in Los Angeles in June.

Michael Lischer AIA RIBA International Director

"Consuming Heritage or the End of Tradition" California House

Monday, 8 May ~ 6:30 - 8:00PM

17 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JA

Professor Nezar AlSayyad, Professor of Architecture, City and Regional Planning and Chair of UC Berkeley's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, will give a provocative talk on the prospects of preservation and the meaning of the built environment in the age of globalization. Professor AlSayyad is professionally active as both an architect and planner in the US and Egypt. His current research activity is in the areas of traditional environments, housing in the Arab world, computer simulation of medieval cities, architecture of tourism, hybrid places, urban informality, and the new global urban history. Professor AlSayyad is also Director of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments.

Admission charge: £5 / £3 (students) to help defray cost of refreshments.*

For more information or to RSVP, please contact: abby.lunardini@californiahouse.org.uk / 020 7079 0566. RSVP Deadline: Tuesday, 2 May

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chapter notices

National AIA Senior VP in London

Having been in her new job for only seven weeks, Christine McEntee, the AlA's new Senior Vice President/CEO paid the London Chapter a visit. Chris attended the Chapter's twelfth Excellence in Design Awards Ceremony, and while in London met with members of the London/UK Board. A meeting was also arranged with Richard Hastilow, Chris's counterpart at the RIBA and several of his colleagues.

The RIBA meeting highlighted the many similarities and some differences between our respective institutions. We agreed to meet regularly and identified the following key areas for further discussions.

Joint exhibition of UK and American architects work

Continuing professional development programmes

Reciprocity of professional qualifications

International issues are high on Chris's agenda and her trip was an opportunity to meet with Chapter members and develop a better understanding of our needs and concerns. Chris enjoyed her short few days in London and is looking forward to another trip in the future.

Grassroots 2006 ...and a thank you to AIA Wisconsin

AIA London/UK President, Bea Sennewald received a generous welcome from the Wisconsin delegation during Grassroots in Washington DC this past February, sharing dinner and even tagging along on a visit to the WI senators.

Many thanks go to the members of the Wisconsin delegation from AIA London.

Grassroots provides an annual opportunity for chapter representatives to meet and learn more about various chapters approaches to operations and member services.

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Member Profile, Bea Sennewald

Getting to know architecture in London was at the top of the Bea Sennewald's list when she came to London and joined AIA London/UK in 1999. "I really enjoyed the building tours and getting privileged access to many London landmarks when I first came here. None of the chapters I had belonged to in the U.S. in the past had offered anything similar," she said.

As current president of the London chapter Bea still attends as many events as possible. Raising the profile of the Chapter is

her main goal for this year. "The quality of our events is excellent," she said. "If we can attract good audiences from the London architectural community our work will be that more valuable."

Professionally Sennewald has spent most of her career designing science and technology projects in the U.S. and Europe. She very much enjoys working with scientists and creating the specialised environments necessary to do the next generation of research, whether medicine, biology, semiconductors, physics, pharmacology or nanotechnology. What holds particular fascination for her is the miniaturisation of research and the requirements for highly stable, controlled laboratories that come with it. "When researchers are manipulating molecules and atoms the floor can't vibrate and the temperature around the microscope cannot fluctuate by more than a hundredth of a degree or the image will start to wobble. Architecturally these buildings are interesting because of the contrast between the highly technical idiom of the labs and the light, air and human interaction of the people spaces."

She has been responsible for the design of several award winning projects, including the National Institute of Science and Technology in the U.S. which won Lab of the Year in 2005.

Sennewald leads the London office of HDR, an U.S. architecture and engineering firm that specialises in science and technology as well as healthcare design. She graduated from Antioch College and holds a M. Arch degree from the University of Oregon. She is married to journalist Gregory Katz and mother of a nine-year old daughter.



You are cordially invited to the

AIA London / UK Chapter Annual Summer Party The Serpentine Pavilion & Gallery

Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, London

Pavilion Design by Rem Koolhas and Cecil Balmond, with ARUP, Gallery Installation by Thomas Demand

Tuesday 4th July 7PM to 10:30PM

Sponsored by Herman Miller
Please RSVP to Fiona Mckay on +44 (0)20 7089 5600
or by email: Fiona.mckay@woodsbagot.co.uk

Entry Fee: AIA Member £40, Non-member £45, Students £20



The AIA London Chapter is happy to welcome the following

new members:

Christopher Riley Harvey, SOM

Michael Laviano, HOK Sport

Patrick Fintan Dunne, Fintan Dunne Architect

chapter sponsors











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