

# AIA UK

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Chester A. Widom, FAIA

Number 5

Spring 1995



AGM - David Walker, the new president of AIA/London, one of the stunning views from the AGM venue at the top of New Zealand House, Nicholas Grimshaw accepting his Excellence In Design Award

## New Officers Elected at AGM

David Walker of Swanke Hayden Connell Architects was unanimously elected chapter president at the February Annual General Meeting of the AIA/London UK chapter. Walker has been active in chapter affairs since the chapter was first formed. He served last year as Vice President and editor of this newsletter.

The Excellence in Design awards were presented to the winners (see story elsewhere). In accepting his award, Nicholas Grimshaw said that he

welcomed American architects working in the UK. He would like, however, to see a reciprocal reception of UK architects and their work in the US.

Rick Mather presented slides of his work and discussed his experiences in practice in the UK over the past 30 years.

Other officers elected are Daniel Smith of Smith Lance Larcade and Bechtol as First Vice President, Michael Lischer of Helmuth Obata and Kassabaum as Second Vice President, Candace Sheeley of RTKL as Secretary, and Justine Kingham as Treasurer.

The new Directors are Thomas Giannini, Noel Hill, Lorraine Dale King, Peter Tao, Stephan Reinke and Robert Turner. Judy Nyquist has been reelected as Executive Secretary.

Chairs for the Committees were also elected. Their names and telephone numbers are as follows:

**Education:**  
Daniel Smith (0171-488-3340)  
Peter Ellis (0171-930-9711).

**Historic Restoration:**  
Jack Warshaw (01420-472830) and Maryann Bowen.

**Membership:**  
Lorraine Dale King (0171-828-5860 phone and fax)

Tom Giannini (0171-221-9296).

**Nominations:**  
Patricia Stefanowicz  
(0171-609-9846).

**Public Policy:**  
Stephen Yakeley (0171-609-9846)  
Roger Kallman (0171-930-9711).

**Publications:**  
Justine Kingham (0171-376-8763)  
Carrie Byles (0171-930-9711).

**Programmes:**  
Stephan Reinke (0181-748-8088)  
Anita Kercheval (0171-930-9711).

**RIBA Liaison:**  
Noel Hill (0171-435-2462).

If you have comments, suggestions or an interest in participating on the committees, please contact one of the Chairs directly.

## COMMENTARY

*(Letter from Chester A Widom, FAIA - President AIA to Stephan C. Reinke, AIA - Past President AIA London/UK)*

I am truly disappointed my schedule does not allow me to accept your invitation to visit with you and the members of our AIA London/UK chapter. The disappointment for me is all the greater because as the AIA's first international chapter, you deserve a particularly high standard of care from us back in the "mother country." You are, after all, breaking new ground for the increasing number of our members who work internationally.

The second anniversary of the first international chapter is, therefore, no small accomplishment.

The fact that London/UK is the AIA's first international chapter strikes me as singularly appropriate, as is your anniversary theme with its focus on design excellence. There has always been a special relationship between Great Britain and the States that goes far beyond the happy accident of a common language. When America's architects first met to form a professional association, they looked to the RIBA. And when the AIA created an award to

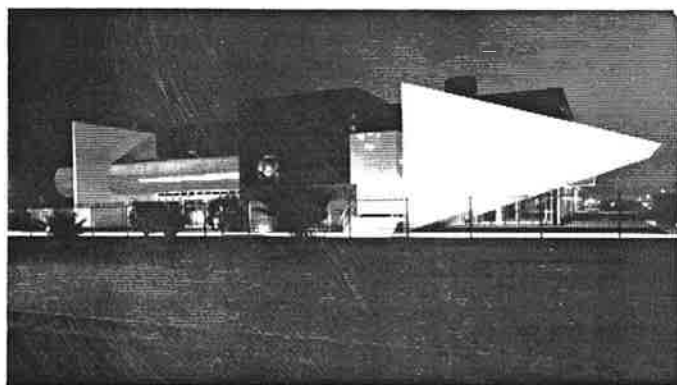
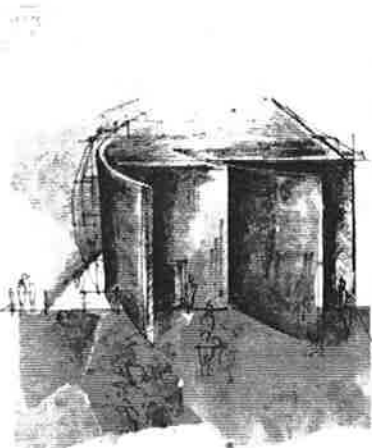
honor a lifetime devoted to design excellence, they again looked to Britain and found in RIBA a model for our own Gold Medal. Indeed, the first architect to receive the AIA's Gold Medal was Sir Aston Webb.

That was back in 1907. In the intervening years, the dialogue between architects in both countries has undergone an extraordinary evolution. Today in our era of electronic communications, global finances, and the Concord, the dialogue embraces more than international styles; it now encompasses international practice. Unlike Sir Aston Webb, today's

recipient of the AIA Gold medal is as likely to have major projects outside his country as in.

But offering one's services in a global marketplace raises issues that would have been unknown or, at most, of little consequence to the first recipient of the AIA's Gold Medal. For example, how does one go about developing international standards to assure a level playing field? Or, how do we address practice issues, such as liability and risk management, peculiar to our times?

## NEWS



**The Student Design Award, the Saudi Lighting Company by Nabil Fanous and Michael Mitchell, and the International Terminal at Waterloo Station by Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners**

## NEWS

### Design Excellence Recognised

The AIA London/UK chapter presented design awards to three projects at the Annual General Meeting in February. The Saudi Lighting Laboratory by Nabil Fanous Architects received the 1995 Commendation for Excellence in Design and the 1995 Excellence in Design Award was won by Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners for the International Terminal at Waterloo.

The 1995 Student Design Award went to a project by five architecture students at Bath

University under the direction of Richard Frewer.

The students were Cara Cromie, Irmgard Lochner, Terry Sargeant, David Saxby and Carl Jane Wallet.

The jury was composed of Phil Dowson FAIA, President of the Royal Academy of Art, Zaha Hadid, David Leventhal AIA, Kohn Pedersen Fox, Rick Mather AIA, Yann Weymouth AIA, Skidmore Owings and Merrill, and Stephan Reinke AIA, The Areen Group.

The jury decided the criteria for each award, and their selections were unanimous.

Of the student work, they commented, "skillfully inserted into its context," "beautifully drawn images," "the project exhibits the rigours of the process, particularly in the modelling," and "I would hire these kids today."

The Saudi Lighting Laboratory, done by Nabil Fanous and Michael Mitchell, was described as "a beautiful, simple and clever plan, manifest in the built form," and "cheerful and yet serious about its function."

The jury felt that the Waterloo station by Nicholas Grimshaw was "a celebration of movement

and technology" and "one of the great structures of our time." It was "exquisitely engineered and detailed," "functional and natural," and "convenient, clear and lifts the spirit."

The Awards program marked the achievement of the Chapter's final program initiative, set out by the Chapter's first president. "At a time when we hear and read new 'buzz phrases' from the corridors of power," said Reinke, "such as 'taking the art out of architecture' and 'zeroing out the funding for the arts' it is particularly important to honour those whose efforts stand out."

The obvious answer is that we can't do it on our own. That's why we unite in that particular fellowship we call the AIA. And the AIA in turn recognizes that to be effective on behalf of the profession means being where the members are. This is a new and exciting development.

But as important as it is to bring logic and predictability to the "what" and "how" of international practice, we must never lose sight of the "why" of our profession, which takes me back to your celebration of excellence. The subtext of your

celebration is a recognition that more than ever we architects have an important role to play in determining whether this planet's precious resources of materials and people are exploited or honoured. As the UIA/AIA joint declaration, signed in Chicago two years ago, recognizes, we have by our gifts and the fact of international practice advocates of this planet and its peoples.

I know you have both the energy and dedication to celebrate many more anniversaries. But as you prepare for this particular occasion, be assured we are at the same time

devoting a great deal of attention back home to finding ways to build closer ties with our members abroad so that you have the support and resources you need for your future success. Being there for one another is, after all, at the heart of what it means to unite in fellowship.

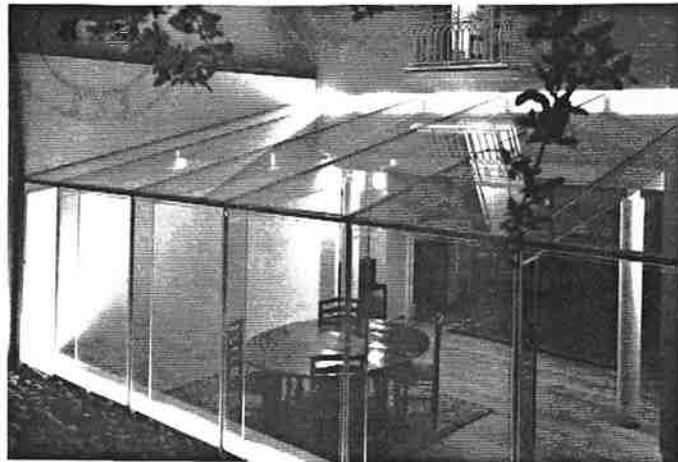
Once again, congratulations tonight and best wishes for many prosperous and fulfilling tomorrows.

## What About Adverts?

It has been suggested that the newsletter might carry short notices along the lines of a professional bulletin board. Would you be interested in a job listing service, equipment for sale or swap, or similar free advertisements?

Please comment by phone or fax to  
AIA UK at 0171-352-5594.

## PEOPLE



The North facade of Pennington Street, Wapping, All glass extension for Sir Leonard and Lady Hoffmann, Hampstead, Now and Zen restaurant, Upper St. Martins Lane, London

## FEATURES

### Rick Mather

Although born and raised in Oregon, Rick Mather's working life has been spent in London. "Unless they've heard my accent, I don't think most people know that I'm American," he said.

The nationality certainly hasn't been reflected in his commissions. Perhaps his most familiar work in London has been the Zen restaurant - Zen Central in Mayfair and Now and Zen or the 1978-84 redesign of the Architectural Association.

Mather makes the development of this practice sound as seamless as his design. He came to London soon after college, worked for Lyons Israel Ellis, studied at the AA, worked for the architecture department of Southwark, London, and taught at the AA, the then-Polytechnic of Central London and the Bartlett.

He opened his own office in 1973 helped by a referral from another architect who didn't want to bother with some bookcases. Since designing the Peter Eaton bookshop in Holland Park, Mather's practice has diversified to include private residences, housing

complexes in Bermondsey, a drama studio and computer and education buildings at the University of East Anglia, and a low-energy office building in Wapping.

Current work includes the refurbishment and expansion of the Wallace Collection in Manchester Square and his first free-standing single-family residence in London.

Mather and his associates are about to complete a student residence hall for Keble College, Oxford. This will be their second such building to be built without heating. The first was done for the

University of East Anglia in Norwich.

Mather added extra insulation to the building skin, specified weather-tight windows, and devised a ventilation system that recaptured heat from exhaust air to warm the intake of fresh-air.

But wouldn't you have expected something of the sort from an American?

## EVENTS

**April 22-23:** The German City in Change, lectures, tours and visits in Dusseldorf sponsored by the AIA Continental Europe chapter.

Contact Don O'Neill at (+49) 208 992 5222 (fax only) or Franz-Josef Gerard at (+49) 2162 5715-16/10

**May 5-8:** AIA International Convention & Exposition, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. Contact AIA National Headquarters, 800-305-7737 or 202-626-7300 for specifics.

**June** (date to be announced): Planning Law panel discussion, sponsored by AIA London/UK. Contact Stephan Reinke by fax, 0181-748-3475.

**June 1-9:** Transformations, Barcelona, sponsored by AIA Committee on Design. Contact Stephan Reinke by fax, 0181-748-3475.

**July 20:** Second Annual Garden Party, sponsored by AIA London/UK chapter, at Crowthers of Syon Lodge.

**August** (date and place to be announced): First Annual AIA London/UK Family Bar B Que.

**August 8:** Call for Entries, Excellence in Design Programme, sponsored by AIA London/UK. Contact Stephan Reinke by fax 0181-748-3475.

**September:** US/UK Building Codes Panel discussion,

sponsored by AIA London/UK. **October:** Design with Brickwork seminar. Contact Stephan Reinke by fax at 0181-748-3475.

**November:** Design Charette, sponsored by AIA London/UK. Contact Dan Smith by fax at 0171-481-1102.

**November 15-16:** Building Globally, AIA International Markets and Practice meeting, Boston, Mass. Contact AIA National Headquarters at 202-626-7300.

**November 24:** Submission deadline for Excellence in Design Awards.

**December 7:** Design Awards

## AIAUK

Number 5 Spring 1995

The newsletter of the London/UK Chapter of the American Institute of Architects  
David Walker, Justine Kingham, Carrie Byles, Editors

AIA/UK would like to hear from you. Please send comments, suggestions and opinions to:  
AIA/UK  
33 Hollywood Road  
London SW10 9HT  
0171 376 8763

## AIALondon/UK - New address!

The First International Chapter of the American Institute of Architects  
2 Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, London SW3 5LS



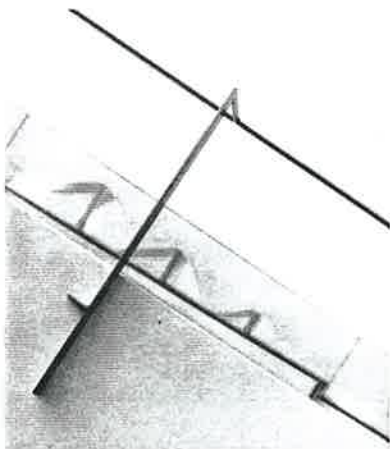
David M. Walker AIA  
Swanke Hayden Connell Architects  
12A Finsbury Square  
London EC2A 1AS

## COMPETITION

cut here

### Recognize this detail ?

Guess the location and designer of this detail and enter a draw to win two free tickets to our second annual Garden Party at Syon Lodge



Detail Location

Designer

Name

Mailing Address

Town

Postcode

Daytime Telephone Number

send to:

Ms Judy Nyquist  
2 Carlyle Mansions  
Cheyne Walk  
London SW3 5LS  
071.349.0453