



Looking ahead to 2007

The AIA London/UK, has already planned a very full calendar of events for next year - beginning with the Design Awards, continuing with the Keynote lecture at the RIBA, the Summer event, the Student Design Charrette and the AIA International Conference on Design and Build (PPP/PFI) in London; with a number of special speakers throughout the year.

All marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the AIA.

We hope this coming year will also mark the special relationship and further cooperation between the AIA and the RIBA.

The year also marks the 100th anniversary of the AIA Gold Medal Award.

A relationship between architects going back to Thomas Jefferson's visit to Palladian-Indigo Jones inspired Chiswick House and garden which was, in part, the template for the design of Monticello in Virginia, to the early 20th C - with the induction of RIBA architect/urban planner Sir Aston Webb to the AIA as the first winner of the AIA Gold Medal in 1907.

A number of honorary AIA members continue to exhibit the extraordinary influence UK design has on the architecture of North America, and throughout the world. Lord Norman Foster was a Gold Medal winner in 1994 and made an honorary fellow of the AIA. The full list of AIA/UK Chapter Honorary Members:

Inette Austin-Smith Hon FAIA; Rifat Chadirji Hon FAIA;
L. William Chapin II Hon FAIA; Trevor Dannatt RIBA; Hon FAIA David Davies RIBA; Hon FAIA Sir Philip Dowson Hon FAIA, CBE, PPRA; Abdel El Wakil Hon FAIA Lord Esher Hon FAIA, PPRIBA, CBE; Sir Terry Farrell CBE, Hon FAIA, RIBA; Lord Norman Foster RIBA, Hon FAIA; Sir Nicholas Grimshaw Hon FAIA, RIBA, CBE; Dr Roderick Hackney Hon FAIA, PPRIBA; Patrick Harrison Hon AIA, Hon FRIBA; Sir Michael Hopkins Hon FAIA; Lady Patricia Hopkins Hon FAIA; Paul Hyett Hon FAIA FRIBA; Eva Jiricna Hon FAIA; Monica Pidgeon Hon FAIA; Hon FRIBA Sir William Whitfield Hon FAIA, RIBA; MRTPI Michael Wilford Hon FAIA



Chiswick House



Monticello

the AGM 10th january

The 2007 Annual General Meeting will take place on 10 January, 2007 at the Herman Miller Showroom in Tottenham Court Road, starting with drinks and nibbles at 6:30pm.

The most important part of the agenda will be the election of a new board of directors. An election committee is presently working very hard to put together a slate of candidates. Any nominations are welcome. If you would like to be on the board or nominate someone, please send an e-mail to the Chapter Executive at

chapterexecutive@aiauk.org
or call 7930 9124.

During the evening we will review Chapter activities of 2006 and discuss what is planned for 2007 so far. We will also see some research Herman Miller have recently sponsored on the Future of Work.

DATE:
10 January 2007, 6:30 pm

PLACE:
Herman Miller showroom,
149 Tottenham Court Road,
London W1 0JA



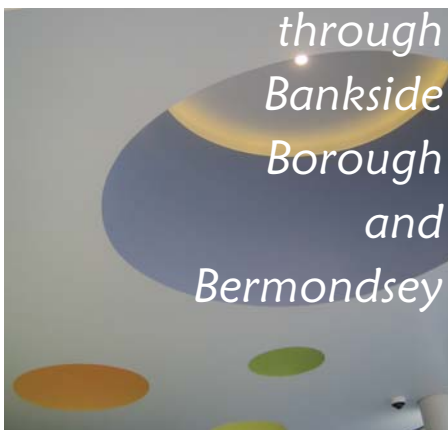
Summary of the past year's events

The AIA London/UK Chapter offered a broad range of social and educational events thought out the 2006 calendar providing a total of 30.5 CES Learning Units. The topics explored were as varied as "Rural Architecture of Kentish Villages" to the emerging architecture of the "Future City".

The year's calendar kicked off with the AIA Design Awards in March at the Royal Society of Art. Louisa Hutton, of Sauerbruch Hutton, lead the jury who selected five design award winners and three commendations, along with two Noel Hill Student Travel Awards. Late spring saw the return of the AIA Bike Tours with Benedict O'Looney leading a group through the rural villages of the Kentish countryside. At the height of summer, Annual AIA Summer Event was held at the Serpentine Pavilion under REM's bubble in Hyde Park. The Annual AIA Student Charrette marked the beginning of autumn. It was hosted by the AA where students were asked to "Explore the Envelope" at the British Museum. In late autumn Benedict returned to lead a walking tour through Bankside, Borough and Bermondsey exploring the area's new architecture and how it relates to the historical development of the area.

In between these events a series of building tours were undertaken; including a tour of Unilever House (under construction), by KPF, the Farwood Children's Centre by Alsop Design, the East Wing of the National Gallery by Dixon Jones, the Idea Store by David Adjaye Associates, and finally the Round House Theatre by John McAslan & Partners. In addition, AIA members and guests were given private tours of the "From the Bauhaus to the New World" exhibition at the Tate Gallery, the "Future City" exhibition at the Barbican and the "Making Space" exhibition by the City of London.

Next year's calendar of events is currently being compiled; any and all suggestions are welcome. Please contact the Chapter Executive at chapterexecutive@aia.org if there are particular topics you are interested in seeing included in the 2007 calendar.



... getting down to work ... at the student charrette

Southwark Walking Tour

On the 21st October, Benedict O'Looney - Lecturer in Architectural History at the AA - led another exclusive AIA tour - this time focused on up-and-coming Southwark. The 20 AIA 'guidees' learned that Southwark has been up-and-coming before and contains a range of past and present treasures.

The tour started with a modern example of what O'Looney called "stitched together architecture" - the very new, Young Vic.

St George's Circus and Blackfriars Road are neglected remnants of a once elegant approach to Blackfriars Bridge - town planning and property speculation from the 1700's.

Will Alsop's Palestra and Allies & Morrison's Bankside 123 are modern office buildings, differing not only in style, but also in client philosophy and contractor delivery.

Once the Southwark cut through was the In place for small, engineering / industrial enterprises, which have left a legacy of classic Victorian buildings - Kirkaldy's Testing & Experimenting Works, the magnificent, cast iron Hop Exchange, the Chocolate Factory, etc.

Within a renovated Victorian School, the unexpected Jerwood Space provides workspaces for modern artists.

On to Borough Market for a wander-round and lunch - how/when did they get the Floral Market there? - then a look-in at Southwark Cathedral.

Despite the weather going from bleak to worse (sleet & wind!), the intrepid AIA guidees stuck with the tour down Tooley and Bermondsey Streets, picking up more architectural anecdotes - and 6.0 CES credits - along the way.

AIA/CES Provider Workshop in Barcelona

I was delighted to be able to represent the AIA London/UK Chapter at the AIA/CES Provider Workshop in Barcelona in October co-hosted by the Catalan Association of Architects and the AIA Continental Europe Chapter and presented by Thom Lowther, Ed.S., Senior Director AIA/CES. Attended by approximately 16 other representatives of AIA/CES Registered Providers from various countries including Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Kenya and the USA, the focus of the workshop was on "Best Professional Development Practices in both the US and Europe". Each attendee was invited to share with the group information about best practices in their own organisations, and some important trends emerged.



Because of the advent of mandatory CPD for state licensing and AIA membership, statistics show that CPD has taken a pivotal role in architects' lives with the realisation that it will benefit not only the public but architects as well. Since the year 2000 there has been a 64% increase in the number of AIA/CES Registered Programs and a 45% increase in firms offering on-site continuing education. Methods of delivery of AIA/CES Registered Courses are also evolving. The traditional classroom approach is now widely supplemented by individual web-based systems some of which use digital game technology. These courses are also recognised by most state registration boards although some place a limit on the number of LUs you can earn with them.

Examples of these on-line courses are those provided by the AIA's eClassroom

[www.aia.org/onlineeducation],

the Royal Institute of British Architects

[www.riba.org/go/RIBA/Member/CPD_495.html],

the CertainTeed Corporation [www.certainteed.com],

Park University School for On-line Learning [www.park.edu],

Escola Sert [www.coac.net/escolasert],

AEC Daily [www.AECDaily.com],

Ron Blank & Associates [www.ronblank.com],

McGraw Hill Construction [www.archrecord.construction.com] and

Red Vector [www.redvector.com];

or you can search Google if you want more. If the courses are AIA/CES Registered you do not need to self-report on completion. Many of the courses are free and will earn you AIA/CES Learning Units (including HSW), so don't miss out on these valuable new opportunities to both gain some new information and maintain your credibility as an Architect!

new sponsor joins the AIA family

We are pleased to announce that Arlington Consultants Group, a provider of strategic and specialist recruitment services, has been asked and agreed to sponsor the UK chapter of the AIA in what will be our 20th Anniversary year.

Arlington Consultants Group bring 23 years experience providing professional recruitment services to the Architecture and Design community throughout the UK and Europe. Other markets in which they are involved include furniture, fit-out, design and build and workplace consultancy.

Key individuals from the company will be in attendance at the majority of our scheduled events throughout the course of the year. In addition, Arlington will be hosting a number of recruitment specific evenings where they will be able to discuss individual careers or the recruitment needs of employing organisations.

Jared Pittard, Sector head of A & D at Arlington Consultants commented "We are extremely happy to have been given the opportunity to sponsor the UK AIA, in what is such an important and exciting year for the Chapter. We genuinely feel we can add an additional service for all your members and would be happy to speak with anybody who would like advice or assistance when considering recruitment or career development. We are currently planning a number of informative and creative recruitment and career development events developed solely with AIA members in mind. We will announce dates for these in the New Year. We look forward to working with and meeting you all in 2007.

Should any of our members wish to contact Arlington Consultants Jared Pittard or Tim Bell are available for confidential discussions on 020 7758 2210.

AIA Continental Chapter Conference - Udine

The AIA Continental Chapter has long had a tradition of bi-annual, 3-4 day conferences in major European cities, but this pattern has recently started to slow down. This is not due to lack of interest [attendance averages 80 +] or scarcity of exciting locations, but is due – in part – to the strain of organising a high quality event with an all-volunteer team.

Next September's AIA Conference in London is supposed to line up with and complement Continental's requirements, but the Chapter is concerned that its own needs and unique flavour will be lost in the larger London venue.

Although nothing definite is planned yet, there is serious talk of organising a 2007 or 2008 conference in – perhaps – Athens, Brussels or even Dubai. In the meantime, some of the conference slack is being taken up with smaller, regional events. The French Section is particularly active and offers CES opportunities for London/UK Chapter.

That said, the 5th to 8th October Udine Conference ranked with the best of the previous ones. Udine is a town of less than 100,000 in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region of Italy – a flat northern plain, ringed by the Alps.

While Udine has all the requisites of an Italian town – excellent cuisine, marvellous shopping, charming architecture, friendly people – its most remarkable feature is its complete lack of pretentiousness. It is a working town that just is – and without a multitude of tourist to impress.

After a series of morning CES lectures, the tours included a visit to the Hypo Bank headquarters with its impressive Italian curtain walling façade and stark, stylish interiors.

As the region is famous for its furniture industry – witness the world's tallest chair (10-20 meters?) enshrined on the roadside – visits were made to three furniture makers of distinctly different styles – Fantoni, Moroso and Caligaris. Local history starts with the Roman city of Aquileia with its incredible mosaics and continues into the 1800's with the star shaped, defensive city of Palmanova.

The final walking tour of Udine included works by Palladio and – an extra special treat – a private tour of Casa Veritti-Scarpa. Total = 13 CES units.

Making Space

In early October Chapter Members and guests met with Victor Callister, Street Scene Manager for the City of London, and members of his team for an insightful discussion on the creation of new public spaces. The establishment of the "ring of steel" – the surveillance cordon surrounding the City – and the introduction of Congestion Charging has resulted in a 40% reduction in vehicle traffic and, consequently, large areas of redundant carriageway that are available to be redeveloped for new public spaces. Victor and his team manage rather than design the spaces and work with artists, architects and landscape architects. Over the last five years they have overseen the creation of over 20,000sm of new public space in the City.

The evening's discussion concluded with a visit to the new space at Old Bailey designed by architects Burns + Nice. This space incorporates a major water feature, new planting and seating set in a contemporary design of rising platforms paved with limestone.

Udine Mosaics



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