

Excellence in Design Awards 2008

The winners of the 2008 Excellence in Design Awards will be announced at the AIA/UK Gala event on Thursday, 8 May. The awards, now in their fourteenth year, honour the best buildings designed by U.K. architects anywhere in the world, and by architects of any nationality in the U.K. Alongside the professional distinctions, the AIA/UK chapter also sponsors the Noel Hill Student Travel award for the best student portfolios.

This year's competition attracted seventy entries from professionals and ten from architecture students.

The Awards Gala will be held at the East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf, starting at 6:15 pm.



Gianni Botsford *Light House*
One of the 2007 winners



Wilinson Eyre *City and Islington College*
One of the 2008 winners

2008
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Building Tour: Louise Blouin Foundation in West London

The West London area between the A40 and Shepherd's Bush is not known as one of the capital's hotspots but several gems hide amongst the industrial sheds and self-storage lock-ups. One of them is the Louise Blouin Foundation, the subject of an AIA/UK Building Tour in March.

Located in an industrial estate not far from Latimer Road Underground, the building cast a purple glow in the evening light from LED displays in each of the windows.

Inside a triple height white on white lobby leads to exhibition and lecture space laid out on three levels.

The Foundation has ambitious goals: To use art to forge a better understanding of international politics and to explore the significance of creativity and the creative potential of the human brain.

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Upcoming Events

AIA/UK "Founding" Series of Lectures Continues

in Association with the Architectural Association (AA)

Venue: AA 36 Bedford Square,
London, WC1B 3ES

28 April

Michael Gabellini of Gabellini Sheppard,
NYC

6 May

Eva Jiricna
Award winning architect with a prolific
practice in London and Prague, alumna
of the AA

Future Lectures Pending: Ron Arad
Asymptote, Michael Wilford, David
Chipperfield, Rafael Viñoly

8 May

Excellence in Design Awards
6:15 East Wintergarden

July 2008

AIA/UK Summer Gala



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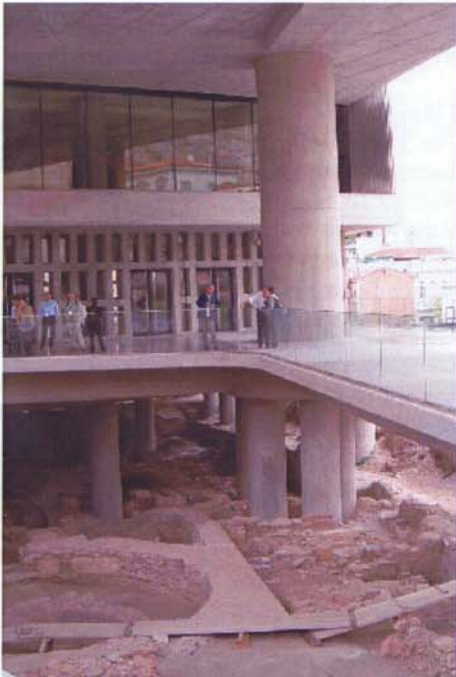
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Celebrating Spring In Athens with AIA Continental Europe

AIA Continental Europe's spring conference was held in Athens this year, with a theme of Ecology + Environment + Architecture. In line with the environmental emphasis, distinguished speakers included 'green skyscrapers' architect, Ken Yeang; 'landscape healer' landscape architect, Julie Bargemann (DIRT Studio, Virginia USA); Greek architect Alexandros Tombazis as well as 'BedZed' director, Benjamin Gill. Other speakers from across Europe added to the potential for 18 CE points.

City tours included the new Acropolis Museum, currently close to completion. Controversies around this museum include not only the Elgin Marble displays, but also local issues like compulsory purchase of land, rights of view to the Acropolis for residents, on-going archaeology digs and the space devoted to the extra large Acropolis café terrace. Despite the issues, the building will afford some remarkable spaces for the display of classical sculptures.



Archeological excavations continue beneath the new Acropolis Museum

Photo by Lorraine King

Several UK Chapter Board members attended, including Keith Millay (Pres), Lorraine King (Treas) and Lester Korzilius (past Pres). To promote further cooperation between chapters, it was agreed that the 2009 Spring Conference would be a joint effort by the UK and Continental Europe chapters and held in Manchester, UK.

After some initial scepticism the suggestion was met with enthusiasm once the UK representatives described some of Manchester's modern architectural developments and its Victorian charms. Manchester is also a city that has rebuilt itself after years of neglect and the disastrous IRA bombing.

Details of the conference will be worked up over the next months; volunteers should contact the Chapter Executive.



View of the Museum from the Acropolis

Photo by Daniel Herren

events

July/September 2008
Summer Barbecue

18 October
Student Design Charrette
AA
Bedford Square



Students Compete in Annual Charrette



Help with U.S. Licensing

The AIA/UK chapter is taking the initiative to help associate members through the process of becoming licensed architects in the US while living in the UK.

The first event which took place at the London office of KPF on 24 April brought together about thirty architecture graduates of U.S. universities who are making their way into the profession in London.

Participants at the seminar learned that graduates who want to become licensed in the U.S. are required to work for a period under the direct supervision of an architect, and two thirds of that period must be supervised by a U.S. registered professional. It was also explained that the Registration Exam can only be taken in the U.S., not abroad.

Robert Rhodes gave a spirited presentation on the entire process from starting the Internship Program to taking the exam. He made it look easy. He described how after some in-depth study of the subject components he jumped on a plane to the U.S. and took all required exams within a three-week period. Robert passed every subject on the first go – and showed how it could be done.

Encouraged by so much interest, AIA/UK is starting a mentoring program which pairs interns with professional architects practicing in London. There is also a small library of materials on the ARE available from AIA/UK.

Anyone interested in further information, please contact: Brianne Page at bpage@kpf.com.

Peter Eisenmann Chosen as Keynote Speaker for 2008

Internationally renowned architect Peter Eisenmann has been chosen as speaker for the 2008 AIA/UK keynote lecture. Even before Peter Eisenmann established his practice in New York City in 1982 he became prominent as a member of the New York Five - with Charles Gwathmey, Michael Graves, John Hejduk and Richard Meier – who espoused a pure form of modernism. The Five subsequently followed very divergent paths, with Eisenmann focusing on the association and disassociation of architecture with cultural identity.

He has made very important contributions to architectural theory, particularly deconstructivism. Last year he published "Written Into the Void: Selected Writings, 1990-2004"; his latest book "Ten Canonical Buildings: 1950-2000" is coming out this spring.

Eisenmann is currently the Louis I. Kahn Visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale. He previously taught at New York's Cooper Union, Harvard University, Princeton and Cambridge University (U.K.)

Among his most recent projects are the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin (completed in 2004) and the University of Phoenix stadium (completed in 2006) the first U.S. stadium with a removable grass field.

2008 chapter officers and chairs

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Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 pm. The venue rotates between chapter members' offices.



News from AIA National 'Global' Thinking Takes the Stage

The AIA is becoming more global.

After many years of debate, the national board of the AIA appears ready to consider the idea of an International Region that would represent U.S. architects practicing in the four corners of the globe. An initiative will be presented to the Board at its September meeting by the International Committee of the AIA.

The intent is that all of the overseas chapters and other architects practicing outside the U.S. in areas where there are no chapters will be grouped into the International region which will have voting representation on the Board.

The AIA already took a step in this direction in 2005 when it established a non-voting Board member to represent the three overseas chapters at the time – AIA/U.K., AIA Continental Europe and AIA Hong Kong. The first board member was Michael Lischer from the U.K. Chapter who held the position in 2006 and 2007.

If successful, the motion to create an International Region could be voted on by the the membership of the entire AIA at the convention in 2009.

Another indication of international strength is the fact that overseas chapters continue to form. Since 2006 AIA Japan has been created and this year AIA Costa Rica could be created if the necessary by-laws change is approved by the AIA Board.

As part of the discussion of the global reach of the AIA, there are voices calling for elimination of the membership category of "International Associate" and allowing all members who are entitled to practice the profession in any country to use the initials AIA. This would be a major change and may prove very controversial, but the mere fact that there it is in play signals a new openness of the AIA toward the international arena.

Louise Blouin Foundation, continued

Sponsored projects are as diverse as "A Soldier's Tale", a play performed by Iraqi and European actors and a lecture series on Music and the Brain.

The building started its life as a carriage making business and functioned variously as an automobile showroom, offices and a warehouse. It was gutted and rebuilt in 2006 when it became the Foundation's home.

The Building Tour was enhanced by a Richard Meier retrospective exhibit which featured models of many of his best known buildings, and also serious of exquisite drawings and small paintings not previously published

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