

Excellence in Design Awards 2008 Winners Announced

At the annual Gala, held at the East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf on 8th May, the AIA/UK Chapter honoured excellence in the design of completed buildings by UK architects anywhere in the world, and by architects of any nationality in the UK, with one winner and seven commendations. Jury Chair Victoria Thornton presented the awards.

The jury praised Allies and Morrison's Royal Observatory for its outstanding contributions to a historically significant site. The project complemented the expansion needs of the observatory, carefully appreciated the importance of an addition to a world heritage site while creating a well conceived, imaginative icon, and immediately stood out as the clear winner of this year's Excellence in Design Awards.



2008 WINNER
Allies and Morrison
Royal Observatory

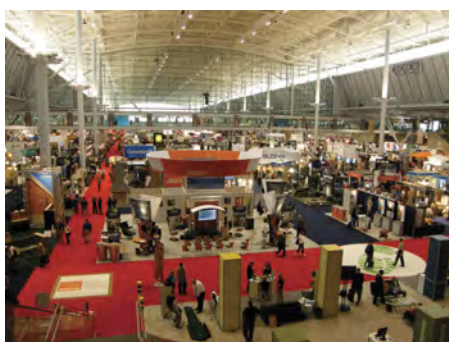


2008 Design Awards Venue
East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf
*Photographer Owen Raggett

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2008 AIA Conference : Boston

What does the AIA have in common with clam chowder and Boston cream pie? The AIA's 2008 National Convention and Design Exposition! The AIA's 140th convention took place in Boston in May. The focus this year was on sustainability, affordable housing, and urban design and security.



AIA Design Exposition
*Photo by Michael Lischer

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upcoming events

AIA/UK Film Night Fridays

2 CES credits for each film
All films showing at 19:00h

Venue:

BFI Screening Room
21 Stephen Street
London W1T 1LN

August 1

North by Northwest
(1959 - 35mm print)

October 17

Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision
(1994 - DVD)

November 14

Blade Runner
(1982 - DVD)

Other Upcoming Events

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

September 2008

AIA/UK Barbecue

October 18

Student Design Charrette
Architectural Association
Bedford Square
London WC1

November 11

Keynote Speaker: Peter Eisenmann

April 2009

AIA/UK + AIA/CE Conference
Manchester

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Excellence in Design Awards, cont.

COMMENDED ENTRIES:

Diana Princess of Wales, Memorial Fountain
Gustafson Porter

**Photographer Helene Binet*



EMBL / European Bioinformatics
Institute Extension
The Wellcome Trust Genome Campus
NBBJ Ltd



Keith Millay, Josye Utick and Richard Spencer
**Photographer Owen Raggett*

Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre
Haworth Tompkins



Royal Shakespeare
Company Courtyard Theatre
Ian Ritchie Architects Ltd
**Photo copyrighted by Ian Ritchie Architects Ltd.*



Enjoying the wine and canapés
**Photographer Owen Raggett*

Young Vic Theatre
Haworth Tompkins

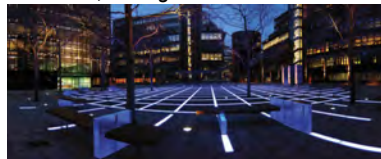


Evelina Children's Hospital
Hopkins Architects

**Photographer Paul Tyagi*



Finsbury Avenue Square, Broadgate
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill



Having a look at one of the commended entries
**Photographer Owen Raggett*

2008 Excellence in Design Awards Jury

Gianni Botsford, Principal, Gianni Botsford Architects Ltd
Daisy Froud, Founder, AOC
Professor Don Gray, Head of School, Kent School of Architecture
Simon Hudspith, Partner, Panter Hudspith Architects
Philip Marsh, Director, dRMM (de Rijke Marsh Morgan Architects)
Holly Porter, Founder, Surface to Air Ltd
Professor Robert Tavernor, Professor of Architecture and -Urban Design & Director of Cities Programme, London School of Economics
Henrietta Thompson, design writer, editor and curator
Victoria Thornton HonFRIBA, Founding Director, Open House London (Jury Chair)

*A special thanks to Josye Utick for all of her hard work organizing the 2008 Design Awards.

Noel Hill Student Travel Awards
Programme Winners:

Elliot James Krause
Oxford Brookes University



Stefanie Rhodes
London Metropolitan University



Winners, commendations and student awards
**Photographer Owen Raggett*



Peter Eisenman : Keynote Lecture

By Lester Korzilius, AIA RIBA

The AIA/UK 2008 Keynote Lecture will be given by Peter Eisenman, FAIA, Int. FRIBA. The lecture is given in association with the RIBA and will be held at the RIBA Jarvis Hall on Tuesday, 11th November at 6:30pm.

Mr. Eisenman's lecture will focus on the theoretical underpinnings of his work. Among Mr. Eisenman's award-winning projects are the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts and Fine Arts Library at The Ohio State University in Columbus and the Koizumi Sangyo Corporation headquarters building in Tokyo, which received National Honor Awards for Design from the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Eisenman is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement by the International Architectural Biennale in Venice in 2004. Currently he is also the Louis I. Kahn Visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale.

Tickets can be purchased through the RIBA Trust on 020 7307 3699.

Images below are examples of work by Eisenman Architects



Garden of Lost Footsteps
Installation at Castelvecchio Museum
Verona, Italy
**Photo courtesy of Castelvecchio*



Memorial to the Murdered
Jews of Europe
Berlin, Germany
**Photo by Eisenman Architects*



Galician National Library and
Archive under construction
Northwest Spain
**Photo by Paisajes Espanoles*

AIA Conference : Manchester 2009

By Lester Korzilius, AIA RIBA

The AIA/UK and AIA/Continental Europe will be co-hosting a conference in Manchester, 23-26 April. The theme of the conference is regeneration in the context of Manchester. The event is in early days of planning but will include a series of seminars and lectures, as well as guided building tours such as recent Civil Courts of Justice by Denton Corker Marshall, Imperial War Museum by Liebeskind, Lowry Centre by Michael Wilford, Hilton Tower by Ian Simpson, and many others.

The event will begin on Thursday evening, 23 April, and will conclude on Sunday, 26 April. There will be optional tours on Monday, 27 April, likely a tour of Liverpool and its architecture. The programme is being developed to allow UK attendees to arrive on the Saturday morning and have a full two days of tours and events. There will be a conference dinner on the Saturday evening.

For further information, or to volunteer in the planning, please contact:
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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.



SPACE : LIGHT

Founding Lecture Series

By Etain Fitzpatrick, AIA

The AIA/UK was proud to launch its Founding Lecture Series with Michael Gabellini and Eva Jiricna under the theme SPACE:LIGHT at the Architectural Association this Spring. This series is a celebration of the AIA's 150th anniversary; commemorating the Institute's past and future commitment to the education and profession of Architecture. Both speakers are Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and have close ties with the AA, as a student and former President. They are both world-renowned architects who demonstrate a mastery of space, light and form, realized in a range of projects from boutique interiors to large scale reuse projects. The use of form and light, cross-disciplinary collaboration and connection to art is paramount to each; however the detailing, (concealed/exposed) is realized in very different ways. The idea behind SPACE:LIGHT was to celebrate liaisons and dialogues between: education – profession; art – architecture; past – future; New York - London

Michael Gabellini of Gabellini Sheppard Associates New York, launched the series on Monday April 28th with a tantalizing lecture, "Spatial presence, design memory". Michael described his architectural and art education, the formation of his interdisciplinary studio and the design philosophy and process that he brings to each project. Michael illustrated a series of ideas of spatial perception, sensory environments, and the relationship of history and modernity in contemporary design and cities. A continuing theme throughout Michael's work is the idea of spatial narrative onto which images are overlaid, growing these ideas and bringing these spaces to actualisation and spatial resonance.

He described the influence of his background, educated at RISD and the AA in the late 1970's. In addition to obtaining his architectural degree, Michael studied as a sculptor and artist. A son of a sculpture and interior designer as well as grandson of an Italian stone mason, Michael maintains and promotes close ties to the tradition of arts & crafts.

Michael showed work demonstrating a range of scales from realizing a posthumous sculpture by Felix Gonzalez-Torres for the 2007 Venice Biennale to Top of the Rock, a stunning transformation and reinstatement of a landmark public space.

Eva Jiricna of Eva Jiricna Architects completed the Spring Founding Lecture series on Tuesday 6th May with a witty and insightful analysis of the work and influence of her practice. Eva described the influence of design collaboration and the importance of creative solutions for the problems facing our built environment. She presented the highly crafted and detailed design solutions to what have now become some of the most iconic images of her work. She showed a cross section of projects illustrating a structural sensibility and spatial mastery at every scale, from jewel-like glass suspended exhibition displays to her iconic stair and boutique designs to a hotel renovation in Prague. Eva's success not only comes from her sensibility of art and structure, but her belief in the collaborative process, stating that if people spend time together, then the creative fire starts on its own and the architect is the one that pulls all the strings together. One of the images that Eva showed was of a red poppy illustrating all the effort that goes into making something of beauty.

In practice for over 30 years, Eva touched on the history of her career. Born in Czechoslovakia and attending the Prague Polytechnic and Prague Academy of Fine Arts, she came to London after the Czech uprising of '68. In her first job she worked for the GLC on a marina project in Brighton, moving on to Rogers office working on the Lloyd's interiors, after which she established her own practice. Eva's most recent exhibition design for the Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture is currently at Somerset House in London and can be seen through August 10th 2008.

The Founding Lecture Series will continue in the Fall of 2008, details to follow.



Eva Jiricna
Architectural Association
**Photo by Etain Fitzpatrick*



Founding Lecture Series venue
Architectural Association
**Photo by Etain Fitzpatrick*



Keith Millay in conversation with Eva Jiricna
Architectural Association
**Photo by Etain Fitzpatrick*



AIA Annual Cycle Tour : Kent Coast

By Keith Millay, AIA

The annual AIA UK Cycle Tour on the 19th July beat the odds on weather and turned into a perfect cycling day as we wound through a string of seaside villages and towns along 55 kilometres of the East Kent Coastline. The outing was lead as in the past by Benedict O'Looney, M.Arch, RIBA and fount of detailed historic knowledge. Following a train journey from Victoria Station the tour began in the middle of a seafood festival in Whitstable where we enjoyed some striking and well preserved fishing huts, numerous 16th century buildings as well as a collection of fishing boats dating from many eras moored in the harbour.

From there the 16 strong contingent travelled on to Herne Bay passing through various seafront leisure environments. It was here where we enjoyed a very filling Fish and Chips lunch under the eye of an 1837 freestanding Clock Tower, with rather unusual proportions, and a view of remains of the Herne Bay Pier, the end of which is isolated off shore. As with most of the towns we rode through during the day we found an often repeated pattern where the remnants of the medieval core are surrounded by the 18th century development, surrounded by the Victorian era development followed by the 20th century and beyond. Unfortunately all too often the most recent development fails to live up the past.

One of the most spectacular segments of the ride was the next leg onto Reculver where the coast path aligns with the ruined Saxon/Norman church located within the walls of a Roman Fort. The group enjoyed a well deserved rest within the ruins of the church, along with a lecture from Benny on the architectural history of the site, before travelling on to Birchington. This town offered up a surprise where we were able to walk about a complex of Arts and Crafts bungalows, built in the mid 19th century as a resort community and representing the first introduction of this building type to Britain from the Indian Colonies. From there it was on to Margate, with a visit to the ruins of the scenic railway and a final push around North Foreland to the lovely bay at Broadstairs. This ended the tour where we finished with a pint under the shadow of Bleak House, an Inn frequented by Charles Dickens.

For most it was a late return to Victoria Station but well worth the investment in time and toil to visit this edge of England which has served as a playground for Londoners for so long.



Approach to Reculver
*Photo by Keith Millay



Fishing Shacks in Whitstable
*Photo by Keith Millay



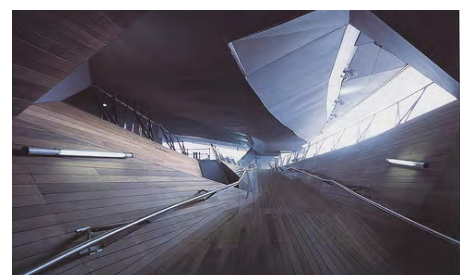
Reculver Saxon Norman Church
*Photo by Keith Millay

AIA Summer Soiree : Private Viewing of Skin + Bones

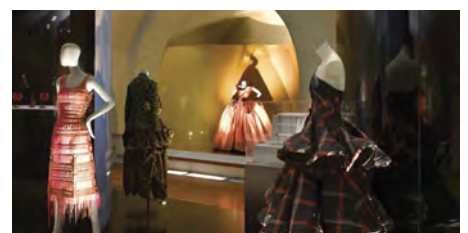
By Keith Millay, AIA

This year the annual AIA/UK summer gala was held on a bright warm evening at the Embankment Galleries, Somerset House where members and friends enjoyed an evening of champagne and canapes. Private access to the Skin + Bones Exhibition, highlighting parallels between the practice of Fashion and Architecture, proved a huge success and an opportunity to share opinions with new acquaintances. A brief presentation by Eva Jiricna, who designed the Exhibition, proved the perfect introduction to the show.

Once again this year we had a huge turnout and special thanks should go to our chapter and event sponsor Herman Miller and also to Woods Bagot for their support of the gathering and role in organising the myriad of details for the evening. We also hope Mark Cathlove of Herman Miller didn't find himself in too much hot water for raffling off that 4th chair – the champagne really worked.



Skin + Bones Exhibition
Yokohama International Port Terminal
Foreign Office Architects



Skin + Bones Exhibition
Designers on display



2008 AIA Conference: Boston, continued

By Michael Lischer, AIA RIBA

By all accounts, the conference and exhibition were a great success. The event was attended by 23,950 people who had access to over 280 educational seminars and tours. The expo hall at the Boston Convention Center, designed by Rafael Vinoly, was filled to capacity with 850 exhibitors. If you needed to catch up on your continuing education learning units or simply wanted to meet friends and colleagues, this was the place to be! AIA/UK members Keith Millay, Kevin Flanagan, Mike Hardiman, and Michael Lischer participated and took full advantage of all that was on offer – including the chowder and cream pies!

The convention theme 'We the People' was chosen to showcase the power of architecture on behalf of all people. "I was encouraged to see that it was warmly received and embraced by all speakers and attendees," said AIA President, Marshall Purnell, FAIA. "The tone was set with the Habitat for Humanity founder, Millard Fuller's, excellent speech outlining the responsibility that architects have to address one of the most basic needs – shelter. His point was that architects have the opportunity to bring the dignity and worth of the profession to the people who need it most, and it was an ideal representation of our theme".

The convention concluded with a keynote presentation by Ambassador Andrew Young on the need for greater diversity in the profession. Other keynote presentations included AIA Continental Europe's Thomas Vonier, FAIA, who moderated a panel that examined issues of urban security and the built environment from geopolitical, tactical, and humanitarian points of view.

If you missed this year, you should plan to attend the 2009 National Convention and Design Expo, which is themed "The Power of Diversity: Practice in a Complex World". This takes place from April 30th to May 2nd in San Francisco. With a little effort you can achieve your entire year's requirement for learning units, and have a great time with 25,000 like minded folks!

Delegates to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Convention in Boston elected George H. Miller, FAIA, to serve as the 2009 AIA first vice president/president-elect and 2010 Institute president. Miller, a partner at Pei Cobb Freed in New York is currently serving as an AIA vice president.

"The AIA must set the pace, as leaders and stewards for our neighbourhoods and the environment," said Miller. "As AIA president, my priorities will be focused on promoting the importance of the highest quality design for our communities.

George is preceded by 2009 President, Marvin Malecha, FAIA.



Rafael Vinoly's Convention and Exhibition Center
Boston, Massachusetts

*Photo by Michael Lischer

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