

Newsletter

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AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

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Winners of Annual Student Design Charrette : Cardiff University

Anderson Inge, AIA, ARBS, Charrette Coordinator
Photographer Valerie Bennett

One of the highlights of the AIA UK events calendar is the Annual Student Design Charrette, which took place this year on Saturday, 18 October at the Architectural Association. The Charrette is a lively opportunity for students to limber-up their design skills early in the academic year.

Mentored by architects, students work collaboratively for the day to develop and present a winning design. Students are encouraged to join with others from their school or University to compete against other institutions. This year's event attracted 50 students representing eight different universities or practices from across the UK, Wales and Scotland: Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture; University of Kent School of Architecture; Architectural Association; Liverpool John Moores University; Newcastle University; University of Edinburgh; Cambridge; the Mackintosh School; and the 5th Studio Architecture practice.

The theme for the Charrette this year was 'Re-thinking the Museum' for the 21st Century and the site was the former Post Office sorting office facility in Holborn.

Kevin Flanagan introduced the Brief and primed their thinking with a powerpoint presentation offering different takes on the role of the museum past and future. The brief called for a range of uses, including: 'open storage' of museum artifacts, a speakers' corner for debate, viewable artist studios, traveling exhibitions, various education and lecture spaces, amenities such as restaurants and shops and a significant percentage of residential units to balance the budget.

Continued on following page

AGM: Date & Venue Announced

Tuesday 13th January at Herman Miller Showroom

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of the AIA UK will take place on the 13th January at the Herman Miller Showroom located at 61 Aldwych, beginning with drinks and nibbles at 6:30pm. The evening will include a brief overview of the Chapters activities over the past year as well as a discussion of what events are being planned for 2009.

The election of a new board of directors for the upcoming year will also take place. An election committee is now in place and working hard to put together a slate of candidates. If you would like to nominate yourself or another please email the Chapter Executive at chapterexecutive@aiauk.org

The AGM is a chance to meet a wide range of AIA UK members and to also visit the new showroom of Herman Miller, a long time chapter supporter. The evening will include a short presentation by Mark Catchlove of Herman Miller titled 'The 4 Generations at Work' looking at what constitutes a 'great place to work' for each generation.





Annual Student Design Charrette, continued

In addition to Kevin's introduction, the Charrette benefited from an additional presentation by Neil Cooke who is a Vice President and Head of Conservation at HOK Architects. As part of the kick-off, Neil gave an exciting presentation about some of the many museum projects he has been involved with, such as the Darwin Centres at the Natural History Museum, the Ministry of Defense restoration, as well as the shelved British Museum Annex project.

As in the past two years, this Charrette was again a CAD-free event. Design and presentation in Schools now is dominated by technology, but in a one-day event this can disastrously interrupt the dialogue needed for collaborative work. Students seem to have unanimously embraced the spirit of this for the recent Charrettes.

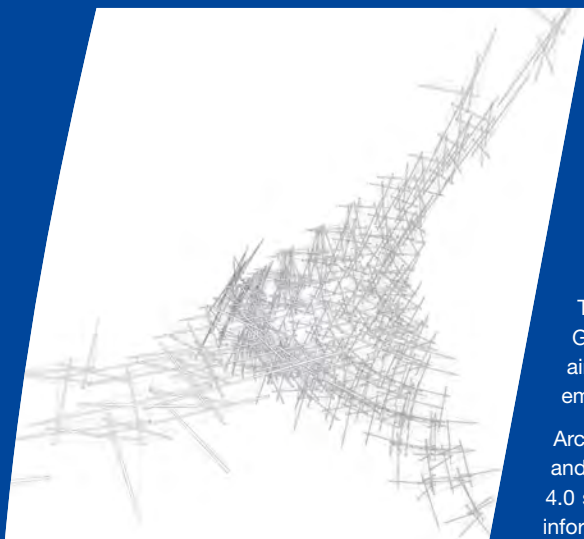
Paul Finch OBE, Editor of the Architectural Review, once again Chaired the Charrette Jury. Co-Jurors with Paul were Neil Cooke of HOK Architects, and Holly Porter, Founding Director of Surface to Air Architects. The Jury did a brilliant job of complementing the student presentations with lively and generous critique that had broad perspective, insight, enthusiasm and humour. The Jury particularly praised the students' extraordinary quantity of work, as well as their many creative ideas.

The Jury awarded First Prize to the table from Cardiff University – Welsh School of Architecture. Their presentation contained a striking and effective range of images, including some evocative watercolors, line perspective renderings and physical model. Their scheme embodied some compelling ideas for moving the public up and through the open storage collections to be housed in the Annex.

Second Place went to a table made up students from the Architectural Association's Intermediate Unit 5. This group gave a strong presentation of huge, suggestive photo-overlays and a remarkably well-developed model of their novel proposal for interior public circulation that blended stepped seating with areas for aggregation and public presentations.

Third Place was awarded to a group from the University of Kent School of Architecture.

The AIA UK extends a huge thanks to Steve Jolly and the entire CallPrint reprographics team, who made this unusual event something truly special. For more than a decade now, CallPrint has been an annual sponsor of the Chapter, and they have additionally supported the participating students with reprographics-on-demand throughout the long day. The students' enjoyment of the event and the quality of their work are dramatically increased by this unique, professional-level support. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Architectural Association for making its Main Lecture Hall available for this event.



IDP/ARE NEWS : AIA/UK Awarded \$1500 Grant

Brianne Page, Assoc. AIA

The AIA/UK chapter is one of six winners of the 2008 Emerging Professional Component Grant from the College of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects. The chapter aims to provide assistance through the American licensing procedure and to unite emerging American professionals working abroad.

Architectural Registration Examinations (ARE) study sessions will begin once a fortnight, and many thanks to the College of Fellows, the chapter will be acquiring a set of the new 4.0 study materials. If you are interested in joining the ARE study sessions or want more information about becoming licensed in the United States while working in the United Kingdom, please contact Brianne Page at bpage@kpf.com.

EVENTS

UPCOMING AIA/UK MEETINGS

Final AIA/UK Board meeting of 2008
Wednesday, 3 Dec, 6:30pm at KPF offices

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Herman Miller Showroom
Tuesday, 13 January, 6:30pm (see pg 1)

Inaugural AIA/UK Board 2008 meeting will take place tentatively on Wed 14th Jan, at 6:30pm - Venue TBC.

Please email the Chapter Executive at chapterexecutive@aiauk.org if you would like to nominate someone or yourself.

FOUNDING LECTURE SERIES

CHRIS WILKINSON

TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 18, 6:15pm

Chris Wilkinson of Wilkinson Eyre Architects presents
"Exploring Boundaries"

The lecture will take place at the Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, WC2 1B

Admission is free and worth 2 CES credits
RSVP to efitzpatrick@kpf.com

JOHN McASLAN

TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2008, 6:15pm

John Aslan of John McAslan + Partners presents
"Transforming King's Cross Station"

The lecture will take place at the German Gymnasium, adjacent to St. Pancras Station, 26 Pancras Road NW1 2TB

Admission is free and worth 2 CES credits
RSVP to efitzpatrick@kpf.com

EVENTS 2009

AIA/UK MANCHESTER CONFERENCE

Urbis Centre, Manchester
April 23-26, 2009

LIFE DRAWING CLASSES

"Drawing at Work"

www.drawingatwork.co.uk

Classes are tailored for architects and engineers. Details to be finalized.



tours include the shortlisted Stirling Prize Civil Justice Centre by Denton Corker Marshall, Bentham Tower by Ian Simpson, Daily Express Building by Owen Williams, Tadao Ando's Piccadilly Pavilion, the Manchester Commonwealth Stadium, the Manchester Velodrome, the town hall, and the Rylands library. We also plan to include a visit to the BBC project in construction designed by David Chipperfield and the Lowry Centre.

The conference will be based in the centrally located Urbis Centre designed by Ian Simpson. During the conference, delegates will have access to several exhibitions showing in the building. The Thursday evening reception will be on the top floor bar/restaurant of the Urbis Centre with expansive views over the Manchester skyline.

The Saturday night gala dinner will be held in the main hall of the Imperial War Museum designed by Daniel Liebeskind. The evening will begin with an architectural lecture about the building, and delegates will be free to view the entire museum and collections.

An optional Monday tour will travel to Liverpool. Organised in conjunction with the RIBA Northwest the tour will include the traditional buildings in Liverpool familiar to most, including the Town Hall, St Georges Hall, Liver Buildings etc. It will also include the buildings shortlisted for the LAS Architectural Awards (completed in the last five years) and includes buildings such as FACT, Unity, Arena and Convention Centre and the recently refurbished Bluecoat.

AIA/UK MANCHESTER CONFERENCE

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Plans are moving forward for the AIA UK + AIA Continental Europe conference in Manchester on 23-26 April 2009. The theme of the conference is the regeneration in the context of Manchester.

Speakers will include regeneration and masterplanning experts such as Urban Splash who will also show us some of their local projects. Building



By attending the conference you will earn sufficient CES credits to meet your annual US requirements. We will also provide CPD credits for RIBA members.

The cost of the conference is budgeted at £275 / €350 per delegate which includes all tours, lectures, lunches, reception, and the gala dinner. For more information please contact Lester Korzilius at lester.korzilius@ewa.co.uk.



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AIA/UK SPONSORSHIP EVENT : Palimpsest Public House

Richard Spencer, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

INTRODUCTION

During Open House London Weekend (Sep 20-21), artist and architect Carol Mancke brought to 'virtual' life four pubs which had once existed in the area now comprising the Barbican Estate. These 'public houses', which had served the local community for hundreds of years up until World War II when the Barbican neighbourhood was destroyed by bombing, were marked by new pub signs and different activities. The Barbican Estate is a unique environment, dominated by the largest concentration of private housing in the City of London. The comprehensive redevelopment of the area after the war had replaced ordinary public roads by vehicle-free walkways designed to blend into the residential landscape. These walkways, called the Highwalks, do not follow the old street pattern but do give residents access to their homes, visitors' access to arts and educational facilities, and provide routes for pedestrians passing through the estate from one part of the City to another. Despite this mix of uses, the Highwalks are most often deserted and their status as public places is ambiguous.

The Palimpsest Public House Project began when Carol Mancke, who had moved to Clerkenwell from San Francisco in 2000, got lost on the Highwalks. She was taken by the contrast between these deserted spaces and the neighbourhood's vibrant history, seemingly representing vastly different notions of public space, privacy and public social interaction. By pointing to social history and introducing unexpected activities to these Barbican walkways, the Palimpsest Public House Project invited visitors and residents to experience the place differently, if only for a short period, and draw their own conclusions.

THE EVENT

A weekend of uncharacteristically sunny weather saw the Barbican thronging with visitors and residents. At the Bell Inn a large temporary sand pit, made out of hay bales, tarpaulins and twenty tons of builder's sand (donated by Aggregate Industries Ltd.) and in the shape of a typical Barbican flat, was an immediate hit with local families. The AIA UK generously donated a number of copies of a Frank Lloyd Wright book which were given to particularly dedicated participants – perhaps encouraging a new generation of architects !

At the sign of The Peacock open air yoga practice culminated in an event on Sunday afternoon when thirty members of the public, including several AIA UK members, joined together to perform a cycle of yoga poses outside Shakespeare Tower and were able to take away their own yoga mat courtesy of Agoy. Some of the mats had been turned into unique works of art by the Palimpsest Public House team.

At the sign of The Red Cross artist Dave Loder challenged passersby to answer a question, randomly drawn from a bucket, by writing or drawing within a large cross shaped area on Ben Jonson Place above Beech Street. Over the two days a rich tapestry of comment and debate accumulated.

Amongst the conversations at the information desk at the sign of The Black Horse was one with a visitor who claimed that his grandfather had drunk at each one of the four pubs and that his father had played on the bombsites filling the area before construction of the Barbican Estate began.

The Palimpsest Public House event was supported by a grant from the Arts Council of England and endorsed by Open House London and the AIA UK. Support was also given by a number of local furniture companies, Bene, Wilkhahn and Vitra, local pubs and an enthusiastic crew of volunteers.



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PETER EISENMAN: Keynote Lecture

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Peter Eisenman, FAIA, Int. FRIBA gave the 2008 AIA UK Keynote Lecture to a sold-out audience at the RIBA Jarvis hall on 11 November, 2008 in conjunction with RIBA.

In the first half of the lecture, without the use of slides, Eisenman talked of his current views of architecture. The 75 year-old American architect who is based in New York has mellowed considerably from his self-confessed

'enfant terrible' days, and was warm, engaging, and humorous.

The second half of the lecture featured one current project, the City of Culture in Galicia, has been ongoing for 8 years and is currently in construction. The six buildings of the project are conceived as three pairs: the Museum of Galician History and the New Technologies center; the Music Theater and Central Services building; and the Galician Library and Periodicals Archive. Eisenman explained that the project is understood as a series of traces, marks that produce an alternative condition of figure and ground. The City of Culture evolves from the superposition of three sets of traces. First, the plan of the medieval center of Santiago is placed on the hillside site, which overlooks the city. Second, a Cartesian grid is laid over these medieval routes. Third, the topography of the hillside is allowed to distort the two flat geometries, thus generating a topological surface that superposes old and new in a simultaneous matrix

The project was presented in conjunction with architectural editor and Eisenman's wife Cynthia Davidson who were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary on the night.

The lecture was followed by an open reception in the Florence Hall that gave everyone a chance to network and discuss the lecture. For those that were not able to see the lecture, and audio-visual recording of it will be placed on the AIA UK website within the next few weeks.



AIA/UK MOVIE NIGHTS PRESENTS

Andrew Wade, Assoc. AIA

The second of three AIA UK movie nights to be held this year took place on Friday, 17 October with the screening of Academy Award-Winning Documentary, Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision. The film was shown at the BFI Screening Room and was attended by a mix of AIA members, associate members, and students from the AA and the Bartlett.

The work of this gifted sculptor and architect was introduced by AIA UK Director Kevin Flanagan. His lecture detailed the historical context and cultural grounding of Maya Lin's work, while the ways in which these manifested themselves in specific projects were further explored in the film. Her strong connection with the geographical and natural aspects of her home landscape in Athens, Ohio, exposed itself in the strong, gestural nature of her finest work.

The final film of the year was held on Friday, 14 November at the BFI Screening Room. A futuristic image of Los Angeles was portrayed in Ridley Scott's Blade Runner: The Final Cut, which was released last year. Even though the film series has come to a close for this year, please keep your eyes open for next year's film selections!



Maya Lin Installation



Blade Runner

NORM KRANGEL

Keith Millay, AIA

This past September the AIA/UK was sad to learn of the passing of Norman Krangel, a long time supporter of the Chapter through his leadership of CallPrint. Over the years, many of us in the Chapter had the opportunity to get to know Norm well through his participation in both our professional and social gatherings. He was a key contributor and participant at one of our most successful annual events, the Annual Student Design Charrette. In December of last year the Board presented Norm with the AIA UK Award of Recognition for CallPrint's 13 years of active support of the Chapter and the Student Charrette.

It was a privilege to know Norm and to share in his gusto for life, his warmth and generosity. He was a special man and will be missed.

AIA/UK BUILDING TOURS

Yee Tak Lau, AIA

Keep an eye out for the upcoming AIA/UK Building Tours. This is a great chance to visit award-winning buildings in and around London. Prospective locations includes Finsbury Square Development, East Wing of Wellcome Genome Trust Campus, the Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain and more! These will be guided by members from various reputable architectural practices and by doing so we hope to provide opportunities for further discourse in the realm of design among fellow architects.

Further details will be available on the AIA/UK website as well as in the upcoming newsletter.



AIA UK

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