

Newsletter

No. 57 March 2009

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



2008 Winner : Royal Observatory, Allies and Morrison

2009 AIA UK Excellence in Design Awards Announced

John Onken, AIA, RIBA

The 2009 Excellence in Design awards programme for the AIA UK chapter is well under way. A wide variety of outstanding entries were received by John Onken, this year's programme director.

The challenge so far this year has been the trial of a new format for the submissions. Rather than A4 binders with hard-copy photos to be flipped through by the jury, this year all entries were submitted in PDF format. The intention is that this will aid distribution to the jury members before their meeting, as well as expediting the presentations and hopefully attracting a greater number of submissions. If successful, this could become the format for following years.

This year's Design Awards Gala will be hosted at 6:30pm on Thursday evening, 26 March at the Royal College of Physicians on Regent's Park. We will be enjoying the awards presentation and reception in the iconic Grade 1 listed Denys Lasdun building of 1964, best known for its anatomical references. The reception will be held in the old library, considered to be the 'brain' of the centre. It's hard to determine which organ the lecture theatre represents, but either the lungs or spleen could be possibilities!

Admission to the Awards Gala is free and please RSVP by March 24 to John Onken at aia@johnonkenarchitects.com. It's coming fast, so please make sure to RSVP!

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Urban Renaissance Manchester AIA International Conference

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

The AIA UK and AIA Continental Europe will jointly host "Urban Renaissance Manchester – An International Conference", which will be held in Manchester on 23-26 April 2009. Registration has opened and there has been strong interest. The conference website, including registration information, can be found at <http://aiauk.org/events/2009/Manchester/>.

Continued on page 6



UPCOMING EVENTS

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS

Thursday, March 26. 6:30pm

Royal College of Physicians

RSVP by March 24 to john@johnnonkenarchitects.com

URBAN RENAISSANCE MANCHESTER

AIA International Conference

April 23-26, Manchester

AIA UK BUILDING TOURS

Finsbury Avenue Square, SOM

Friday, March 20

Wellcome Trust Building, Cambridge

May, TBA

MOVIE NIGHTS, TBA

Tuesday, June 16

Friday, September 4

IDP/ARE

Information Session, April, TBA

LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS

Next Course: March 31, April 4, April 1

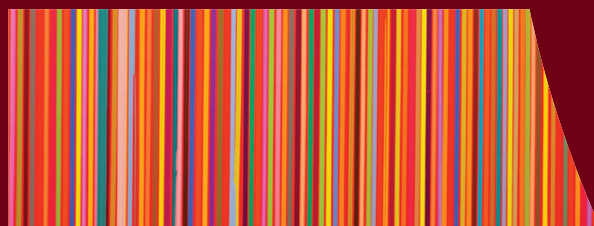
Free for AIA members

£10/session for non-members

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in getting involved, we are looking for help with events coordination, media representation, a historian and IDP/ARE mentors. If you feel that you can contribute to the chapter for any of these specific roles or if you have other new and creative ideas for events, lectures or ways to enrich our chapter, please contact us!

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Richard Spencer at richard.spencer@hok.com or Josye Utick at josye.utick@gmail.com.



HOK is moving its design studio to Fitzrovia.

As from 9th March 2009, our new address will be: Qube, 90 Whitfield Street, London W1T 4EZ
Our phone numbers remain unchanged: t +44 (0)20 7636 2006 f +44 (0)20 7636 1987



Playtime

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Recently the AIA Board of Directors has made some adjustments to the AIA's continuing education requirements, therefore we would like to take this opportunity to update our members on these important changes.

AIA members are required to earn 18 hours of continuing education credits annually. Included within these 18 hours are 8 hours of Health Safety and Welfare (HSW) credits. As of 2009 a new sustainable design requirement of 4 hours has become effective which is part of the 18-hour annual requirement.

Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE) is education required by a state to retain licensure. Approximately 35 states and 10 Canadian provinces have implemented a MCE license requirement, but these requirements vary from state to state, province to province. For a quick overview of individual state/province MCE requirements, please visit <http://www.aia.org/education/ces/mcechart/AIAS074700>.

Members are advised to regularly check their transcript to ensure it accurately reflects the continuing education credits they have earned. Individual transcript records are updated daily. Anyone with an active AIA membership number can access their transcript online at www.aia.org by calling 001-800-605-8229.

If you have questions about the AIA Continuing Education System please contact Maria Sigillito at 001-202-626-7436 or msigillito@aia.org. If you have any questions regarding the reporting of AIA UK events on your transcript or issuing your Certificates of Completion for AIA UK events please contact Kristy Sels at kristysels@hotmail.com.

AIA UK events are a great way to earn credits and meet members of the local chapter. For information on upcoming AIA events please see <http://www.aiauk.org/>.

IDP/ARE NEWS: Emerging Professionals

Are you currently enrolled or interested in starting your IDP and ARE exams? Do you need ARE study materials and/or study advice? Are you trying to complete your US licensure while living in the UK? Would you like to join a study group and/or find a mentor? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, it would be beneficial for you to attend this spring's information session. There will be a joint presentation by Elizabeth Waters, AIA and Brianne Page, Associate AIA, offering advice and study suggestions for completing US licensure while living overseas.

The AIA UK is also currently in the process of buying the study materials which will be available for all AIA members in the upcoming weeks. Details for the spring presentation and study material availability will be announced at a further date, but please be sure to keep an eye out for it!

Annual General Meeting AIA UK : New Officers Announced

Richard Spencer, Int'l Associate AIA, RIBA

The AGM was held on 13th January at Herman Miller's National Design Centre at 61 Aldwych, London. Attendees were welcomed by 2008 chapter president Keith Millay who also thanked Herman Miller for hosting the AGM and introduced Mark Catchlove who gave a lively presentation entitled 'Four Generations at Work' looking at the characteristics and workplace preferences of 'Baby Boomers' versus 'Generation X' amongst others. The presentation turned out to be quite provocative and an enjoyable discussion continued over drinks after the meeting concluded.

Keith Millay then gave his report on the chapter's activities during 2008. He thanked the chapter's sponsors for 2008, which included Herman Miller, Halcrow Yolles, Arlington, Lutron and Callprint. 2008 event highlights include the design awards, the founding lecture series, the summer gala at the Somerset House, the student charette, and the keynote lecture at the RIBA with Peter Eisenman. The AIA UK board members responsible for these events were recognized.

The discussion then turned to the success of the graphic redesign for the chapter's newsletter and marketing material, which was driven by Josye Utick and Ashley Green, who was the graphic designer from Wallflower Graphic Design. Plans are currently being developed to improve the chapter's website during 2009 and the new newsletter templates are being utilized by Elizabeth Waters, the newsletter editor.

On the international front, it has been challenging to communicate across the AIA network and to build closer ties with continental Europe, Hong Kong, Japan and the Middle East. The Manchester Conference is a huge step in moving forward with Europe and in October 2009, there will be a joint conference with these chapters as part of the Cityscape event in Dubai.

Lorraine King then gave the Treasurer's report and began by reminding the group that as a NFPO (Not for Profit Organisation) the chapter must work to budget. Lorraine noted that the board had agreed to reduce dues for 2009 - this was partly enabled by exchange rate fluctuations, but the main intention was to assist with a membership drive. Also, the chapter's byelaws are nearly complete and the final draft will be put forward at the next general meeting for approval. A copy of the proposed amendments can be sent out to anyone who is interested.

The proposed list of chapter officers for 2009 was then put forward and the board unanimously elected. Richard Spencer, this year's AIA UK President, thanked Keith Millay for his role as President for 2008 and noted the numerous positive comments received about events held by the AIA UK. He concluded that 2008 had been a very successful year for the chapter and this would be a hard act to follow!

Richard began by mentioning that the mission of the chapter is to serve the community of AIA members in the UK and noted that the chapter will not be immune from current economic crisis. However he felt confident that the 2009 Board could meet this challenge and offered his thanks to all the volunteers involved. Important tasks for 2009 will be to find additional sponsors and matching or exceeding the quality of events of 2008. He concluded by thanking all the members of the AIA UK chapter whose support made the work of the board worthwhile.



Herman Miller Showroom Facade



Herman Miller Showroom

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2009 AIA UK OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

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Anderson Inge, AIA
Student Design Charette : inge@alum.mit.edu

DIRECTORS

Stephen Andrews, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA
Kevin Flanagan, AIA, MRAIC
Keith Millay, AIA
Bea Sennewald, AIA, RIBA



AIA Grassroots Conference

Josye Utick, Associate AIA

In the beginning of February, over eight hundred delegates, ranging from seasoned conference attendees to newly appointed chapter representatives, attended the 2009 annual AIA Grassroots Conference, which was hosted a stone's throw away from the National Mall at the Grand Hyatt, Washington DC. AIA UK Chapter Officers, Richard Spencer and Josye Utick, travelled to represent the UK members, to pick up a few tips on running an AIA chapter and to get first hand experience of the phenomenon known as the AIA conference.

While the nation's capitol thawed in the splendour of an early spring, delegates, who were tucked deep in the depths of the hotel at least two to three levels below ground, attended seminars on chapter management, listened to inspiring stories of innovative chapter initiatives, such as starting an architectural and design charter school in a major metropolitan area and met with other delegates to discuss a range of topics particular to the field of architecture and also broader ones dealing with the economic crisis at hand.

Adding a unique buzz to this year's conference was the concurrent delegations a few blocks away from the hotel at the nation's Capitol, where Congress debated over the economic stimulus package. During the Grassroots Conference, conference chairman, George Miller, FAIA, provided minute-by-minute details of the legislation discussion which, during the days of the conference, focused on the refurbishment of federal buildings and schools with more sustainable technologies and urged attendees to contact their representatives to pass the bills.

The chief focus for the UK delegates was a series of meetings held with the International Committee to discuss the pending vote on the International Member status (which is to be decided upon at the upcoming annual AIA Annual Convention in San Francisco in May by the AIA National Board), the International chapters' collaboration on a Dubai conference in October and to voice concerns to the AIA National Board about issues unique to AIA chapters outside the United States.

In the end, the conference provided a wonderful opportunity to meet other component officers, to share experiences of running an international chapter and to get a better understanding of the organization of the AIA.



AIA Headquarters Open House

AIA UK MOVIE NIGHTS

Andrew Wade, Associate AIA

Last year's movie nights were a great success, with each film gaining in popularity as the year progressed. The BFI Screening Room hosted *North by Northwest* on August 1, *Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision* on October 17, and *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* on November 14. The events also served as a meeting location for AIA members, with attendees ranging from young architects and architecture students to celebrated professionals such as Sir Terry Farrell.

This year we look to offer another series of diverse and interesting movies, along with introductory lectures to offer continuing education credits. The first film of the year was Jacques Tati's masterpiece *Playtime*, which was shown on Friday, March 6 at the BFI Screening Room. Further details for upcoming films to be announced on the website.

PLAYTIME : Tati's Masterpiece

Kevin Flanagan, AIA, MRAIC

Jacques Tati was a mime artist, a mimic, a comic stage performer, actor, writer, director, producer and telephone receptionist. In the early 1960's Tati was France's most successful filmmaker, an Oscar winner and international star. *Playtime*, a film he directed in 1967, is a creative leap of faith which, though not a commercial success, was the director's best loved creation.

Just as the city of Paris is inspired by the geometry of Versailles' Royal Gardens, the setting of this film is the city as a garden of Tati's imagination with interior green cubicles appearing from above like hedgerows in a garden maze; though seemingly ordered, they are disorienting once you choose to descend and enter.

Although commentary often describes the film as a criticism of modernism, Tati said this was ridiculous – why would he have made modernism so beautiful. Tati certainly does find humour in some of the structures of purist modernism. Initially we all react to the new with some discomfort, but soon we are overwhelmed with curiosity; we are intrigued.

The film documents 24 hours in the life of a city. The opening scene begins in a bright waiting area of a stark office building, everyone walking in straight lines, following the architect's lines in the floors. The sombre and serious characters follow in clipped cadence, at speed, gliding across straight lines in the boxy business complex. As the film progresses into the evening in the restaurant scene, actions become more playful, chaotic and full of energy. Those straight lines followed in the morning become ever more curved, emerging transformed at the end as a circular gyratory, a merry-go-round.

Playtime is a celebration of architecture and life within a city. It is a study of the well-ordered world of modernism which, through entropy, quickly descends into predictable chaos. It is about innocence, exclusion and exclusiveness; film as memory, the viewer is the camera observing the events of everyday life.

This synopsis is, for the most part, taken from a book on the Life of the Jacques Tati by David Bellos.



Finsbury Avenue Square



Welcome Trust Campus

AIA UK Building Tours

Yee Tak Lau, AIA

This month's design excellence building tour will be of Finsbury Avenue Square by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Inc. on Friday, March 20. AIA UK is honoured to have Kent Jackson, Design Director of SOM, with us to explore this vibrant urban plaza in the City of London. The dramatic use of carefully selected materials and implementation of an eye-catching LED light grid program is best experienced in evening times. Lastly, the tour will conclude at the Gaucho Broadgate, where members can have a drink and have an informal Q&A session with Kent.

For those who were aware, the Welcome Trust Campus tour was delayed due to weather conditions earlier this year. The daytrip to Cambridge proves to be a popular event and the AIA UK is tentatively arranging to reschedule the visit for sometime in May. Please keep an eye on the chapter's website for updates on the building tours throughout the year as well as other exciting events.

Life Drawing Classes A Success!

Lorraine King, AIA

In a departure from the usual AIA UK's repertoire of lectures, tours and presentations, this February the chapter decided to include a more hands-on event and - in collaboration with Drawing at Work - organised a series of Life Drawing Classes. DESSO Carpets kindly made its Great Sutton Street Show Rooms available and provided pre-session snacks that helped to settle the 15 or so initially nervous, would-be artists.

Then it was an all-absorbing one and a half hours of seeing and sketching. Trevor Flynn, Director of Drawing at Work, described the middle of the three sessions in more instructional terms, saying "we will look at ways of combining observation and imagination to communicate the underlying structure of the figure."

The first session concentrated on aspects of figure/ground and light/shade, the second session on structure, and the third with contour. Although it was not necessary to sign up for all three sessions, those that attended the first showed up in eager anticipation of the second and third.



The post-session critiques were gentle and informative given the wide range of drawing skills. The drinks afterwards brought the group back together and sent us home relaxed, yet invigorated.

AIA UK

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Give the success of this first series, the Chapter has planned another three-session course on Tuesdays, March 31, April 7 and April 14. DESSO generously offered to sponsor a small "gallery" reception, which was held on Thursday, March 12 to show off the Chapter's artists. Make sure not to miss the next course!



Urban Renaissance Manchester, continued

The conference opens on Thursday evening with a drinks reception on top of the Urbis building. This is followed on Friday with lectures and a tour of central Manchester. On Saturday, there will be further lectures and a tour of the Stirling short-listed Civil Justice Centre by Denton Corker Marshall. The conference dinner will be on Saturday and will be in the exhibition hall of the Imperial War Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind. Sunday includes a panel discussion on the role of sports as a means of regeneration and includes tours of the Commonwealth Stadium and the Velodrome. Monday offers an optional day trip to Liverpool that will be guided by delegates from the RIBA Northwest.

There are several categories of registration including the full conference, weekend only, gala dinner only, and guest of a delegate. Full options and pricing are available through the website. There are also reserved hotels with discounted rates. Early registration closes 01 April.

There is the possibility of earning your entire year's CPD requirements at this one conference.

See you in Manchester!