

Newsletter

No 60 Winter 2010

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



Scottish Parliament

AIA UK Edinburgh Conference Dates Announced

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Save the date! Building on the success of the Manchester conference last year, the AIA is organising a mini-conference in Edinburgh, 17-19 September. The conference will start on Friday evening with a reception and drinks. Saturday and Sunday will be filled with building tours, walking tours, and talks from local architects. On Saturday evening we will hold a dinner in an interesting architectural venue.

We plan on visiting the Scottish Parliament (Miralles), Museum of Scotland (Benson & Forsyth), Commonwealth Pool (RMJM), and Dynamic Earth (Hopkins). Time permitting, we will take a coach trip to Glasgow to catch the Mackintosh buildings, SECC Centre (Foster) and others.

If you are interested in helping to organise the event or have some suggestions, please email lester.korzilius@ewa.co.uk

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Kentish Town Health Centre



Kentish Town Health Centre



LSE New Academic Building

AIA UK Building Tours

Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

The UK Chapter of the AIA commenced the year with a series of building tours, designed to expose its members to unique buildings across London. These events have proven to be a valuable resource by providing a greater understanding of the architectural concepts behind the buildings.

Two tours have taken place so far in 2010, the first being a visit to Kentish Town Health Centre on January 21st. The building is Stirling shortlisted and designed by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris. Project architect Ben Gibson conducted the tour and explained the design which focused on creating intelligent and flexible spaces, which has subsequently significantly raised design standards of NHS health centres across the UK. Internally, the building has been designed around the concept of a street – a generous public/private space that welcomes users and leads them to the reception at the heart of the building from where all services are accessed. These double and triple-height spaces running through the building are enlivened by bridges, views, colourful graphics and a bold signage system.

Grimshaw's London School of Economics was the subject of the second tour, conducted on February 9th. This tour focused on the redevelopment of a former government records building into a new BREEAM 'Excellent' flagship building for the London School of Economics and Political Science. Led by Oliver Pike, a member of the design team, the group learned about the use of hanging structure to make the central public areas column free and toured the upper floors including the roof terrace with views of Lincoln's Inn Fields, the City and the West End. The group also had an opportunity to experience some of the teaching spaces and to see the building being used as it was intended – as the vibrant heart of an academic community.

Future tours in 2010 are tentatively scheduled for the Maggie's Cancer Centre by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and St. Martin-in-the-Fields by Eric Parry Architects. Suggestions for buildings of interest are always appreciated and can be forwarded to wscaramucci@ahmm.co.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday, March 16
BFI Screening Room
"Manufactured Landscapes"

SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE

Tuesday, March 23
Herman Miller Showroom
Speaker: Polly Higgins

BUILDING TOUR

Thursday, March 25
St. Martin-in-the-Fields

ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS

14 April 2010
6:30p – 10:30p
Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells
Rosebery Avenue (nearest tube – Angel)
London EC1R 4TN

TOWNSCAPE DRAWING SESSIONS

End of May
London, UK

AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 10-12
Miami, USA

AIA UK EDINBURGH CONFERENCE

September 18-19
Edinburgh, Scotland

AIA UK Excellence in Design Awards

Michael Lischer, FAIA, RIBA

The AIA UK's Excellence in Design Awards Programme for 2010 concludes with the Gala Awards Ceremony on the evening of the 14th of April. This year's event takes place at the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells in Islington, north London. The jury had a difficult time in selecting the winners in the professional and student categories. All will be revealed on the 14th of April! Space is limited, so RSVP early!



Lilian Baylis Studio

Sustainability Lectures

Alex Miller, Assoc. AIA

Our 5-part Sustainability Lecture Series has kicked off with excellent lectures by Michael Pawlyn of Exploration Architecture and Ed Gillespie of Futerra. Speaking to a capacity crowd at the Herman Miller Showroom in London, Michael Pawlyn gave a lecture presenting biomimicry in Architecture through a variety of his projects. Prior to establishing Exploration Architecture, he was central to the team that developed the Eden Project. His critical insights about the success of the project and how it could have been pushed even further provided a highly insightful look at one of the country's best known sustainable projects. He also focused on greenhouses and the potential for water harvesting in coastal desert climates. Particularly interesting was the combination of multiple technologies in a proposal for a Sahara Forest Project which seeks to provide restorative growth to arid land. The organizer of the spring lecture series, Anna Maria Orru of SCENE thinking, moderated discussion afterwards with an excited and engaged audience.

In our second lecture, Ed Gillespie of Futerra dealt with the issue of communicating climate change in the face of an increasingly aware and occasionally sceptical public. Futerra is one of the world's first specialist sustainability communications agencies. Founded in 2001 they have been focusing on "making sustainable development so desirable it becomes normal." With a background working for the Natural History Film Unit as a marine biologist and regular writer for The Guardian, Ed Gillespie is uniquely positioned to speak about the environment and communications. He highlighted the importance of avoiding greenwash and interrogating the way in which we convey our message in a positive, yet not saccharine, manner.

Members Meet AIA President

Michael Lischer, FAIA, RIBA

Members of the AIA UK Chapter attended a reception for AIA National President, George Miller, FAIA, and his wife, Anne, on Friday the 12th of February. George reported how the new membership structure for AIA's International Associate members is being discussed by the National board of directors.

A vote to modify the Institute's By Laws accordingly, is anticipated to take place at the National Convention in Miami in June. George's business partner, 91 year old I.M. Pei, is this year's RIBA Royal Gold Medalist. George is from New York City and currently runs Pei's office.

A special thanks goes to Justin Cratty and Gensler for hosting the reception and for the tour of Gensler's posh new office at Aldgate!



For our remaining lectures, we have several speakers on topics ranging from environmental law to interdisciplinary research. Next, we have Polly Higgins, Barrister and Planetary Rights Lawyer, speaking about the very definition of sustainability and the impact planetary rights will have on architectural practices. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING LECTURES:

March 23 - Polly Higgins
April 23 - Foam
May 26 - Suzanne Hagan



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Herman Miller Showroom



2010 Annual General Meeting

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

The AGM was held on January 20th at Herman Miller's National Design Centre in central London. Richard Spencer, the current chapter president was unable to attend, so the 2008 chapter president Keith Millay welcomed the attendees and thanked Herman Miller for being such generous hosts. Keith went on to introduce Mark Catchlove, who gave an interesting presentation entitled 'Social Capital in the Workplace.'

Michael Lischer then continued with his report on the chapter's events during 2009. He thanked the chapter's sponsors for 2009, which included Herman Miller, Halcrow Yolles, Lutron and Callprint. Event highlights included the Manchester conference, life drawing sessions, building tours, the bike tour and the student design charrette. The AIA UK board members worked very hard throughout the year to organize these events and their efforts were recognized by Michael and all attendees.

Next on the agenda was the treasurer's report, which was given by the newly elected 2010 Treasurer, Justin Cratty. He also noted the new format for sponsorship, which allows for tiered sponsorship giving different levels of recognition to all of our sponsors. We hope this new format of sponsorship will not only maintain and reward our current sponsors, but draw in new sponsors for 2010.

Finally, the proposed list of chapter officers and board members for 2010 was put forward and the board unanimously elected. Richard Spencer, the 2009 AIA UK President, will continue to be president for 2010 and Elizabeth Waters will serve as Vice President. Lorraine King will serve a second term as 2010 Secretary, Justin Cratty was elected as Treasurer and 14 members will serve on the board.

Michael concluded the meeting by thanking all the board members for their hard work in 2009 and then gave an overview of the 2010 events. We have an exciting schedule this year, including the annual design awards, the Edinburgh conference, the sustainable lecture series, a summer gala, movie nights, the student design charrette and emerging professional events. We hope to make 2010 a great year and we look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events!

2010 AIA UK OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA
William Gordon, AIA



Anna Maria Orru, Michael Pawlyn &
Richard Spencer

2010 AIA National Grassroots Conference

Richard Spencer, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

On the 3rd of February, delegates from AIA Chapters across the US and from overseas gathered in sunny Washington DC for the 2010 Grassroots conference. The UK chapter was represented by myself and board member Josye Utick. Other key members in attendance were Continental Europe Chapter president Charles Croingy, the AIA's 2010-2012 International Director Thomas Vonier, and Hong Kong Chapter president Christine Bruckner.

The Grassroots conference is an opportunity for the leaders of the individual chapters to meet and share experiences and education in order better serve their members. There are many networking opportunities, general sessions and individual learning events covering diverse topics such as "Working with the Media" or "Advocating for the Architects' Role in Disaster Assistance."

Grassroots is also political campaigning; a major part of Thursday was dedicated to Chapter members meeting their elected representatives in both the Senate and Congress. The AIA has developed a vision for rebuilding the US economy based on strengthening local communities through improved infrastructure, mixed-use redevelopment of blighted areas and investment in educational facilities. A number of members of congress spoke to the conference, yet the speech by Adolfo Carrion Jr., the Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs Policy, was particularly inspiring. He really seemed to share an architect's perspective on what is needed to build truly sustainable communities and to implement effective measures that will support this goal.

A new initiative at this Grassroots was a "Member Congress" which provided an opportunity to explain and debate the various bylaw changes that are due to be voted upon at this year's National Convention, which takes place from June 10th to 12th in Miami, Florida. On the International Associate issue, the good news is that there was almost universal support for the principle of the changes proposed, but unfortunately less agreement over the new designation. Hopefully a consensus on the best option can be reached before June.

Throughout the conference, weather forecasters had been warning of a snowstorm due to arrive in the DC area on Friday. By Saturday afternoon the snow was petering out and downtown Washington was a magical place. Everything was covered in snow, there were very few vehicles on the road and almost everything was closed - very different from a normal Saturday!



Finally, it stopped snowing and by the time I left for the airport on Sunday morning it was a fairly easy drive, albeit in four-wheel drive. The amount of snow being pushed around at the airport was quite a sight in the beautiful, bright sunshine. We eventually took off after the plane had been dug out of the snow and thoroughly de-iced. Finally, we arrived back to a very quiet Heathrow, surprisingly only a few hours late. Despite all the snow and difficult travelling, the conference was well-worth the trip!

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AIA National Convention

Michael Lischer, FAIA, RIBA
June 10-12: Miami, Florida

Come to Miami in June to top up your tan and your continuing education learning units!

The convention theme is "Design for the New Decade". The convention is international with guests and delegates coming from over 35 different countries! A number of events cater to these guests and the Institute's overseas members. Always popular is the International Committee's reception on Thursday evening. AIA UK is well represented with several members attending, including AIA UK president, Richard Spencer, Int. Assoc. AIA and chapter vice president Elizabeth Waters, AIA. Why don't you join your fellow AIA UK members in sunny Miami in June?

Register online at: www.aia.org/convention



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Emerging Professionals

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

The AIA UK is dedicated to supporting young professionals on their journey to US licensure. Throughout the year, we hold several events for education and socialization and we have also made the ARE 4.0 materials available for all current members of the AIA UK.

This year we will be holding a seminar to cover study methods for ARE 4.0, including the significant changes to the ARE and IDP in 2009. For those of you interested learning more about the LEED transition from version 2.2 to 4.0, we also hope to hold a seminar this spring or summer to cover the changes, specialization exams and CES credits. We also hold quarterly pub nights to meet others taking the exams and promote study groups. Our recent pub night on Tuesday, March 2 was a great success and we hope to see you in the spring for the ARE/IDP information seminar. Watch this space!

Movie Nights

Andrew Wade, Assoc. AIA

On 16 February, the 2010 AIA UK film series began with Terence Davies' love song and eulogy to Liverpool, "Of Time and the City." Guests braved the heavy rains to return to the BFI Screening Room, not to be disappointed by the eloquent and powerful documentary footage of Liverpool from the 1940's through to the 21st century. A brief biography of the film's director as well as a list of reading material on Liverpool's urban development and regeneration accompanied the film.

Next up is a photographic exploration of China's industrial infrastructure in Jennifer Baichwal's film titled "Manufactured Landscapes." This film will be screened on Tuesday, 16 March and promises to be a captivating look at the formative processes of the designed environments we create. Book early by e-mailing Andrew at taylor.wade@gmail.com to reserve a seat. Free for AIA members / £4 for non-members.