

Newsletter

No 61 Spring 2010

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

AIA UK 2010 Excellence in Design Awards Winners Announced!

Michael Lischer, FAIA, RIBA

The AIA UK 2010 Excellence in Design Awards programme culminated in the Design Awards Gala evening. The event took place on Wednesday, the 14th of April. The Lillian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells had a capacity crowd for the Awards Ceremony and the reception that followed.

The jury chose to award six winners in the professional category and one Noel Hill Student Travel Award. The professional category was for built projects completed in the last three years by UK based architects for projects anywhere in the world and for architects based anywhere in the world for projects constructed in the UK.

Seventy-two professional and student entries were received and evaluated by the jury of eight! After much deliberation and discussion, the jury selected the following professional winners:

HOUSING

Niall McLaughlin Architects: House at Goleen, Cork

CRAFTMANSHIP

Groves - Raines Architects Ltd.: Composting Shed at Inverleith Terrace, Edinburgh

SOCIAL PURPOSE

Alford Hall Monaghan Morris: Westminster Academy at the Naim Dangoor Centre, London

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

David Chipperfield Architects in collaboration with Julian Harrap: Neues Museum, Berlin

TOWNSCAPE

Keith Williams Architects with the Office of Public Works in Ireland: Wexford Festival Opera, Wexford, Ireland

COMMERCIAL

Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners - Campus Palmas Altas, Seville

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House at Goleen, Cork



Composting Shed, Edinburgh



Neues Museum, Berlin

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AIA UK Excellence in Design Awards, cont.

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The jury also awarded one student travel grant of £1,500 to Mark Kelly, a student at the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow.

The jury's input was insightful, invaluable and very much appreciated! This year's jury was a mix of professionals, practitioners, and academics and was composed of:

Deborah Bartlett, London 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority
Eva Jiricna, Eva Jiricna Architects
Carole Monterege, Desso Limited
David Morley, David Morley Architects
Chetan Parmar, Halcrow Yolles
David Porter, Mackintosh School of Architecture
Peter Rees, Chief Planning Officer, City of London Planning
Stephan Reinke, Stephan Reinke Architects

A special thanks to the Design Awards Programme sponsors, Desso Carpets and Halcrow Yolles Engineers!

The Design Awards Programme is an annual event and has run continuously for 16 years. Watch for the "call to enter" next January for the 2011 Programme!



Westminster Academy at the Naim Dangoor Centre, London



Campus Palmas Altas, Seville



Wexford Festival Opera, Wexford, Ireland



Wexford Festival Opera, Wexford, Ireland

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Ron Arad: Restless

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

On May 14, members and friends gathered at the Barbican Centre for a private tour of the Ron Arad: Restless exhibition, lead by the curator, Lydia Yee.

The tour began on the upper level of the exhibition and started with his early pieces of furniture, which were assembled from ready-made items such as car parts and chairs. The exhibition displayed a range of his furniture from rough-around-the-edges to highly ambitious bespoke designs, as well as a few notable mass produced items. The tour ended with a description of his architecture exhibited on the lower level. Ron is currently located in Chalk Farm and practices both product design and architecture. A few of his most notable built projects are the Design Museum in Holon, Israel and the Mediacite in Leige, Belgium.

Tour leader Lydia Yee noted that Ron was very particular about the way the exhibition was displayed. He insisted that each room have a perforated mesh screen at the entrance lined with text created by LED lights to describe the pieces inside. It was very important that these screens were see-through so that the viewer could read the text while having a glimpse of the objects behind. He also had a group of his students from the Royal College of Art help him design and build devices which would rock his furniture on a timer so that the viewers could witness the motion of the pieces. The screens and rocking devices truly showed his attention to detail and his intricate use of technology.

After the exhibition, members enjoyed a glass of wine in the Searcy's restaurant, which has great views out to the Barbican Estate. The AIA UK would like to extend their thanks to Lydia Yee for leading this excellent and inspirational tour and we hope to visit the Barbican again next year!





AIA UK Sustainability Lectures

Alex Miller, Assoc. AIA

The spring sustainability lecture series has hit full stride with more rousing lectures from a variety of perspectives. In March, we had the pleasure of listening to Polly Higgins, a barrister and environmental lawyer. She described her work as developing a legal framework that addresses the potential for damage to the planet, the need for a Universal Declaration of Planetary rights and the development of the term ecocide. While trying not to paint a dire picture, the strength of the language used strongly discourages destructive environmental practices.

Despite volcanic ash clouds, several members of the team from the trans-disciplinary laboratory Foam were on hand at the Herman Miller showroom to illuminate us with their work and urban interventions. Cocky Eek and Theun Karelse described their work as reconnecting the city of Amsterdam with edible, local green food by planting it in various neighbourhoods and stimulating events that encourage engagement with the urban landscape. Their collaborators from loop.Ph were also on hand to describe initiatives in East London such as the Biowall, which is a woven plantable structure, and education initiatives to encourage awareness of plants and their potential in the urban environment.

The sustainability lecture series concluded with a lecture by Susannah Hagan, Director of the Red Group, an environmentally-led urban and architectural design research group. Her presentation "Filling in the Blanks: environmental design and brown field sites" focused on the potential and limits of environmental performance as a driver for urban design within a pre-existing urban condition.

The AIA UK chapter would like to extend a very special thanks to Anna Maria Orru of SCENE Thinking for organizing an energetic group of speakers from a multitude of professions and research interests to present their work and also to Herman Miller for serving as gracious hosts for the entire series.

Emerging Professionals Group: ARE / IDP Information Session

Justin Cratty, Assoc. AIA

On April 21, the AIA UK Emerging Professionals Group hosted an information session about the Architectural Registration Exams (ARE) and the Intern Development Program (IDP) in the US. Herman Millar hosted the event in which Justin Cratty and Josye Utick provided a broad range of information and study advice to help young professionals living in London obtain their US architecture license.

Some of the key topics discussed were the recent changes in IDP reporting format. The 6-Month Rule for all IDP participants goes into effect July 1st, 2010. This rule is effective for all participants regardless of when you started your NCARB record, so please make sure to submit your hours before this deadline! In addition to the 6-Month Rule, the format in which work experience is recorded has been changed from 700 training units (1 unit = 8 hours) to 5,600 training hours to complete the IDP program.

2010 is the first full year ARE 4.0 test format is mandatory for all testing candidates. During the evening an overview of the seven exams was outlined along with study material suggestions and strategies for successfully taking the exams. The AIA UK has a set of study materials for members to borrow, so if you would like to find out more about checking out materials, please contact our ARE / IDP coordinator Brianne Page at bpage@kpf.com.

After the information session, people stayed for a few drinks and shared each other's experiences with the ARE & IDP process. If you would like more information about these topics or are interested to meet others going through the same the process, please join us at our next pub night on June 22nd, pub location TBC. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING TOUR

Thursday, June 17
Murray Grove Building

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS PUB NIGHT

Tuesday, June 22
Pub Location TBC

TOWNSCAPE DRAWING SESSIONS

July 6, 13 & 20
London, UK

AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 10-12
Miami, USA

SCOTLAND EXCURSION

September 17-19
Edinburgh, Scotland

MOVIE NIGHT

September 21
BFI Screening Room
"Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius
Shulman"

AIA UK New Members

Mrs. Maria Solovieva, AIA
Mr. Fatos Peja, Int. Assoc. AIA
Mr. Eric Smith, Assoc. AIA
Mr. Adam Pollonais, Assoc. AIA
Mr. Marc Edmondson, Int. Assoc. AIA
Ms. Carole Monterege, Prof. Affiliate
Mr. Chris Hext, Prof. Affiliate
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included Kentish Town Health Centre by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris and the London School of Economics by Grimshaw.

In March, a relatively large group toured St. Martin-in-the-Fields by Eric Parry Architects. Robert Kennett led the tour and explained the concepts behind this highly complex and ambitious project. The scheme is comprised of a series of modern interventions, set within a mix of historic buildings including a church, school, social care facilities, residential apartments and underground crypts and vaults. The scheme centers around a robust masterplan that reconnected each of the different elements of the site, creating and framing new spaces for the community.

The Maggie's Centre London, a Sterling prize winning scheme in Hammersmith, was toured in April of this year. This flagship cancer recovery centre designed by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners sits on a tight forecourt to the front of the Charing Cross hospital. Project architect Will Wimshurst conducted the tour and discussed this modest but intelligent scheme which houses a support network for people affected by cancer at any stage. A fundamental desire for the building to feel domestic in nature led to a series of clever sectional ideas and flanking courtyards.

A number of future tours are scheduled, including a visit to Murray Grove by Waugh Thistleton Architects on June 17 and a September visit to Street Neighbourhood Centre by Haworth Tompkins. Feedback and suggestions for buildings of interest are always appreciated and can be forwarded directly to Wade Scaramucci at wscaramucci@ahmm.co.uk.



The Maggie's Centre London

AIA UK Building Tours

Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

Monthly building tours have continued into this year, offering members opportunities to visit unique buildings around the capital. These tours provide practical knowledge concerning London specific issues, as well as units of CES / CPD accreditation. Tours earlier this year have

AIA UK Movie Nights

Andrew Wade, Assoc. AIA

On March 16, AIA UK members and their guests met at the BFI Screening Room to watch the stunning documentary of photographer Edward Burtynsky's work in China - "Manufactured Landscapes." The scale and impact of China's industrial landscape and resultant built infrastructure was portrayed in equally beautiful and haunting sequences in this thought provoking film.

After a respite during the summer months, the film series will recommence on September 21 with another award-winning documentary film, "Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman." It traces Southern Californian modernist architecture through the filter of Shulman's unique lens, which aided the emergence of several progressive architects in the mid-20th century.

Book your seats early by e-mailing Andrew at taylor.wade@gmail.com. Free for AIA members / £4 for non-members.



Scotland Excursion

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Planning for the Scotland Excursion is going well! The dates are 17-19 September. The itinerary is still in formation, but the outline is as follows:

On the Friday evening, there will be a drinks reception in the centre of Edinburgh. Saturday will focus on Edinburgh with a guided architectural tour in the morning, giving an overview of both the city and major architectural projects. The afternoon will focus on individual building tours and presentations led by local architects. Malcolm Fraser's office will be leading us through some of their projects including Dancebase and the Infirmary Street Baths. We will also tour the Scottish Parliament designed by Enric Miralles. On Saturday evening, there will be a group dinner.

On Sunday we will visit Glasgow. Similar to the Saturday format we will tour the city in the morning. In the afternoon we will be led by the Gordon Murray/Alan Dunlop practice through some of their buildings. We hope to visit the Small Animal Hospital (winner of the Best Building in Scotland 2009) designed by Archial. We will tour the Glasgow School of Art designed by Mackintosh and we hope to visit Hill House, also designed by Mackintosh. The weekend will conclude around 4pm, giving people the opportunity of travelling back home directly from Glasgow or going back on the group coach to Edinburgh.

The early-bird cost of the tour is £99 for AIA members if booked before July 31st. The registration fee includes dinner on Saturday evening, guided tours and the cost of coaches. You will need to organise your own travel and accommodation. For more information and to register please see www.aiauk.org/scotland or email lester.korzilius@ewa.co.uk



AIA National Convention

Michael Lischer, FAIA, RIBA

Chapter president, Richard Spencer, vice president Elizabeth Waters and board member Michael Lischer are planning to attend this year's AIA National Convention and design exposition in Miami. There are hundreds of events taking place, most of which offer continuing education credits. You can earn your entire year's requirement of 18 units at the convention! If you can't attend in person, you can earn learning units virtually by viewing all three keynote presentations and more than 30 of the educational seminars on the internet.

There is still time to register and join AIA UK members in Miami. See you there!

Register at: www.aiaconvention.com



AIA UK Chapter: New Contact Information & Chapter Executive

The AIA UK board members have recently made a few changes to the chapter. The first announcement is to welcome our new chapter executive, Fiona McKay! Congratulations on your new role!

The next important announcement is the chapter's new mailing address and phone number. The mailing address has been changed to 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AX. Please note this is only for mailing purposes! Our new phone number is +44 (0)203 318 5722.

If you would like to contact the AIA UK, please email Fiona at chapterexecutive@aiauk.org or call the new phone number.

AIA UK

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