

Newsletter

No 61 Summer 2010

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



Photos by Chi Yeung

AIA UK 2010 Summer Gala

Richard Spencer, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

On the evening of 21st July 2010, the AIA UK Chapter held its annual summer gala at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. For those of you who do not know much about this wonderful institution, it is one of London's treasures. The Gallery was founded in 1901 to bring great art to the people of east London. Originally designed by architect Charles Harrison Townsend, the purpose-built gallery is an outstanding example of the Arts and Crafts movement. During Nicolas Serota's tenure as Director in the 1980s the Gallery was expanded by Colquhoun and Miller. Then more recently, when the adjoining Whitechapel Library moved to its new facility designed by David Adjaye, the redundant building was acquired by the Gallery and restored by Robbrecht and Daem. The Gala was held in the old Central Reading Room, now Gallery 2, which is currently host to a specially commissioned installation by Glasgow-based artist, Claire Barclay, called Shadow Spans, which imagines the room as a space turned outside in.

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Coin Street Neighborhood Centre



Murray Grove Building Tour



AIA UK Building Tours

Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

Monthly building tours have continued into the fall, 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. Recent tours have included Kentish Town Health Centre by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, the London School of Economics by Grimshaw, St. Martins in the Fields by Eric Parry Architects and the Maggie's Center by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners.

In August, Andrew Waugh, of Waugh Thistleton hosted a lecture and subsequent tour of Murray Grove (Stadthaus). This residential building is constructed from cross-laminated timber panels from the first floor upwards, making Stadthaus the tallest modern timber structure in the world. The nine-storey building is the first of this height to be constructed entirely from timber including the load bearing walls, floor slabs, stair and lift cores. Commissioned by Metropolitan Housing Trust and developed by housebuilder Telford Homes, the tower houses twenty-nine apartments with a neighbourhood office on the ground floor.

Andrew explained the unique structure of the building is a result of the practice's research in reducing the carbon emissions, not only of the finished building but of the whole build process. This innovative timber stores carbon as it grows, meaning that this building stores 186 tonnes of carbon within its structure for its lifetime.

The entire building was completed within forty-nine weeks, demonstrating that solid timber construction is financially viable, environmentally sustainable and a beautiful replacement for concrete and steel in high-density housing.

A number of future tours are being scheduled, including a visit to the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre by Haworth Tompkins. Feedback and suggestions for buildings of interest are always appreciated and can be forwarded directly to wscaramucci@ahmm.co.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCOTLAND EXCURSION

September 17-19

Edinburgh & Glasgow, Scotland

<http://www.aiauk.org/scotland>

MOVE NIGHTS

BFI Screening Room

21 Stephen Street, London

RSVP: taylor.wade@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 21

"Visual Acoustics:

The Modernism of Julius Shulman"

Tuesday, October 19

"Volume Zero:

The Works of Charles Correa"

Tuesday, November 16

"Urban Goddess: Jane Jacobs

Reconsidered"

LECTURE

Tuesday, September 23

MJ Long, RIBA

Blake Studio, London

AIA UK Annual Student Design Charrette

The annual AIA UK Student Design Charrette will be held in London this autumn, final date and venue to be announced in the coming weeks. If you are interested in mentoring a group of students at the one-day intensive charrette, please contact Brianne Page at bpage@kpf.com



Photograph by Julius Shulman



Kanchanjunga Apartments, Charles Correa

2010 AIA National Convention

Michael Lischer, FAIA

Hot, hot and even hotter! That's the only way to describe the weather in Miami this June. That's also a good description of the National Convention which took place in Miami Beach on the 10th to the 12th of June.

Over 18,000 delegates attended and participated in hundreds of educational seminars and building tours. With a little effort, you could earn all 18 required annual learning units at the convention.

High on the social agenda was the ever popular reception for international guests, hosted by the International Committee. The reception was crowded with guests from all corners of the globe, members of the international chapters, past and present National officers and other dignitaries. Attendees had the opportunity to meet the Institute's new International Director, Tom Vonier, FAIA, from the Continental Europe Chapter. Tom spoke of his efforts to establish an international region for all AIA members living outside of the US.

Other Highlights included:

The Investiture of 11 Honorary FAIA members into the College of Fellows. These are Fellows licensed in foreign jurisdictions and included Ian Richie from England, and John Tuomey and Sheila O'Donnell from Ireland.

The award of the Gold Medal, the Institute's highest honor, was given to Peter Bohlin, FAIA. Bohlin, founder of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, which has five U.S. offices, is renowned for his versatile, contextual use of materials.

The election of Jeffery Potter, FAIA, (AIA Dallas) to serve as the 2011 AIA first vice president/president-elect and 2012 Institute president.

Other officers elected were Dennis A. Andrejko, FAIA, and John A. Padilla, AIA, each to serve as vice president from 2011 through 2012; and Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA, as the Institute's treasurer beginning in 2011.

Plan to be in New Orleans next May 12 - 14 for next year's convention. The 2011 theme, Regional Design REVOLUTION: ecology matters, will allow us to explore how design impacts our lives and scales the distance between community and a global perspective. See you there!



Michael Lischer with AIA National President, George Miller



Miami - Art Deco Hotel

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Whitstable



AIA UK Annual Bike Tour

Lorraine King, AIA

It was not the atrocious August weather; it was not the ambitious mileage that cancelled the AIA's Essex bike trip from Melton (nr Sutton Hoo) to Aldeborough and places beyond. No indeed. It was something far more noteworthy. Biking has become so popular across the UK that it is now impossible to book multiple bike spaces at short notice on Intercity trains. Others it seems, had done their bike reservations even farther in advance than we had. Be warned.

Not to be deterred, a last minute regrouping took six intrepid AIA bikers to Kent instead. First, we visited Canterbury's cathedral and other historic buildings. Then after a pub lunch, we went cross country via the Crab & Winkle trail to Whitstable, an old fishing town on the Channel. Although the day was a little wet and the ride shorter than planned, the combination of architectural sites and exhilarating outdoors provided an excellent day out. There is good reason, after all, that biking is so popular!

2010 Noel Hill Travel Award

Michael Lischer, FAIA

One of the cornerstones to the founding of the AIA UK Chapter is education. A key component of our educational programme for emerging professionals is the Noel Hill Travel Award. This is a grant given to one or two students of architecture annually, upon submission of a portfolio and a proposal for educational travel.

This year's jury chose to make one award of £1,500 to Mark Kelly, a recent graduate of the Macintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow. Mark's excellent submission proposed travelling to a small village in the Himalayas to study indigenous architecture and assist with the design and construction of local housing. Mark writes about his fantastic experiences in the next edition of the AIA UK newsletter.

Thanks to our 2010 sponsors, Desso and Halcrow, for helping us make this happen. The Noel Hill Travel Award really makes a difference to people and is a programme all of the AIA UK members can be proud of!

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Photo by Mark Kelly

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 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 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 tour the Scottish Parliament designed by Enric Miralles. In the evening there will be a group dinner.

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 also plan 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 visit Hill House (also designed by Mackintosh). The event will finish about 4pm, giving people the opportunity of travelling back home directly from Glasgow or going back on the group coach to Edinburgh.

The cost of the tour is £149 for AIA members. The registration fee includes the 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 visit www.aiauk.org/scotland or email lester.korzilius@ewa.co.uk

Townscape Drawing Sessions

Justin Cratty, Assoc. AIA

During the month of July, the AIA UK hosted a series of Townscape Drawing Classes lead by drawing instructor Trevor Flynn. The weather held out to allow for sunny Tuesday evenings of sketching during the three-part series. Classes took place at various locations on the South Bank from the more modern Queen Elizabeth Hall to historic Southwark Cathedral, providing a wide range of architectural styles for drawing.

Trevor has previously worked with the AIA leading Life Drawing Classes last spring. Trevor's upbeat and enthusiastic attitude always provides a fun and energetic environment for participants. During the summer sessions, he provided insight on different techniques and approaches to improve the participant's skills in drawing buildings and the surrounding environment.



Scottish Parliament

AIA National Convention - Int'l Director Tom Vonier with his wife



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AIA UK Summer Gala, cont.

Richard Spencer, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

The evening was kicked off by a welcome from AIA UK Chapter President Richard Spencer to the assembled members, sponsors and guests. We were then treated to an introduction to the Gallery by Whitechapel Director Iwona Blazwick OBE. Later in the evening, we were fortunate to experience two entertaining and thought-provoking presentations on architecture and art by two Gallery Trustees, Farshid Moussavi and Alice Rawsthorn. Farshid is the co-founder of Foreign Office Architects (FOA) and is Professor in Practice in the Department of Architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Alice is the design critic of the International Herald Tribune. Whilst both speakers kept to their allotted time frames, the audience would have been very happy if they had overshot!

Delicious food and wine were consumed to the accompaniment of Aaron Liddard's jazz band and everyone who came confessed to have had a lovely evening. Roll on Summer 2011!



Designing an Artist's Studio

MJ Long, RIBA

Designing studios for artists is an architect's dream; a client who is interested in the performance of daylight and passionate about the working conditions and the nature of their visual environment. These artists are all friends as well as clients, and we enjoyed the process of teasing out what would work for them. Johnson, Blake, and Huxley bought a disused builder's yard in Hammersmith and we developed a studio for Peter Blake in the old stable yard, a studio for Ben Johnson in a shop front and two studios and a house for Paul Huxley and Susie Allen in the remainder of the buildings. They all had different budgets, timetables, and builders (one of whom went into bankruptcy in the course of the job). The work was done in multiple phases over a number of years as funds became available.

Please come and hear MJ Long speak about the Blake studio on Thursday, September 23. We will meet at the studio for the lecture and also to have a look around. We look forward to seeing you there!



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