

Newsletter

No 63 Winter 2011

ATA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



Ashmolean Museum



St. Catherine's College



The Radcliffe Camera

AIA UK Oxford City Excursion Dates Announced

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Following a very successful weekend excursion to Scotland last year, we are actively preparing for a weekend tour of Oxford on 17-19 September 2011. The outing will consist of a tour of the city, detailed architectural building tours and presentations by local architects.

Anticipated highlights include the Ashmolean Museum renovation, Radcliffe Camera, the Florey Building, St Catherine's College, Blue Boar Quadrangle, Balliol College, Hilda's College and many more.

Pricing has not yet been established, but we aim to keep the early-bird AIA price at £99, which includes all tours, guides, coaches, lunches and the gala dinner. For more details or to offer suggestions, please contact lester.korzilius@ewa.co.uk

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Angel Building

AIA UK Building Tours

Wade Scaramucci, AIA, RIBA

Monthly building tours recommenced in February 2011, providing practical knowledge concerning London specific issues as well as units of CES / CPD accreditation.

The Angel Building, by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris was the first tour for 2011. This building is the reinvention of an unloved early 1980's commercial building located on one of London's historic focal points in Islington. Architect Steve Smith led the building tour and explained the strategic concepts behind reusing the existing concrete frame and wrapping it with a highly energy-efficient glazed skin, which extends the building's envelope at selective points. An existing open courtyard has been enclosed to form an internal, top-lit public room entered off St John Street. This new public room acts as the heart of the building and links the various floor plates with the generous breakout areas, terraces and café. On St John Street, a newly landscaped public realm set around existing mature trees and the introduction of shops and a restaurant tie the building to the local context.

Feedback and suggestions for buildings of interest are always appreciated and can be forwarded directly to wscaramucci@ahmm.co.uk. Future tours are being scheduled, so watch this space!

AIA National Convention

May 12 - 14: New Orleans, LA

The convention theme is "Regional Design REVOLUTION: Ecology Matters". The annual convention is an opportunity for members to attend social events, educational seminars and regional meetings, with the added benefit of earning their CES credits for the entire year! The International Committee's reception on Thursday evening is always a popular event and there are a number of walking tours available as well. The AIA UK will be represented by UK Chapter president Elizabeth Waters, AIA and Chapter treasurer, Justin Cratty, Assoc. AIA. Registration is now open online at www.aia.org/convention. We hope you will join your fellow AIA UK members on Bourbon Street in May!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING TOUR

Thursday, March 31
St. Botolph's Building

DESIGN AWARDS GALA

Wednesday, April 13
Liliyan Baylis Studio
Rosebery Avenue
London EC1R 4TN

LECTURE

Tuesday, April 19, Herman Miller
Article 25 Presents:
"Architects and International Development"

AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

May 12 - 14
New Orleans, USA

LECTURE

Wednesday, May 18, Herman Miller
Article 25 Presents:
"Disaster Response Cycle"

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday, May 24, BFI Screening Room
Film TBC

AIA UK 2011 Excellence in Design Awards Gala

Michael Lischer, FAIA, RIBA

With strong entries from a variety of architects, this year's Excellence in Design Awards Gala is not to be missed! The jury that included RIBA president Ruth Reed and our own AIA UK President Elizabeth Waters, had a real challenge in selecting the winners from this year's field of high quality design work.

Please join members and the winners at the annual Gala on Wednesday evening, the 13th of April. Proceedings will begin at 6:30 pm at the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells, London. In addition to the awards presentations, the Gala includes live music and a drinks reception. The Gala is open to the public, but space is limited for this popular event, so please RSVP to chapterexecutive@aiauk.org.



2010 Design Awards Gala

Leni Schwendinger Lecture

Shannon Piatek, Assoc. AIA

The AIA UK Chapter calendar of events got to an excellent start with an energizing and colour-filled lecture by Leni Schwendinger, New York lighting designer and principal of Light Projects Ltd. Leni's roots in lighting design began in both television and live theatrical productions, which brought her an understanding of people's perception of light and sound into the built environment. In addition to being on the faculty of Parsons School of Design, Architecture, Interior Design and Lighting Department, she has been the recipient of numerous professional awards, including several "Lumen" awards from the Illuminating Engineering Society, the Society for Environmental Graphic Design and the NYFA Fellowship for emerging and media art.

One particularly interesting project took over a decade of planning and negotiations before it was realized. This project was the Triple Bridge Gateway for the Manhattan's Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City, where a dimly lit underpass with numerous bus ramps overhead transformed into a glowing corridor of light. Utilizing light as a tool to shape the hundreds of thousands of commuters, tourists, and residents who pass the project on a daily basis, Leni created a set of lighting schemes named "Reflections," "Spectacle," and "Chambers of Colour". These distinct lighting schemes then rotate on a daily and weekly basis to activate the space and provide a continually changing experience for those who visit the space on a regular basis.

Leni spoke on her design process and the influence of contextual details and social patterns on her work. "Chroma Streams: Tide and Traffic" is a site-specific artwork for the Kingston Bridge in Glasgow, Scotland, and was designed by Light Projects, Ltd. with architect Ian Alexander. Coloured lights are projected on the two concrete arches which make up the bridge to create a series of shifting and evolving real-time patterns. These patterns relate to current traffic conditions and then explore the relationship between the flow of traffic on the bridge itself and the slow change of tides.

As part of her involvement in the ARC Show, an exhibition and conference on "Architecture, Retail & Commercial Lighting" at the Business Design Centre in Islington, Leni conducted a "Lightwalk" the following evening and invited the lecture attendees to join. Also known as 'Night Seeing', a light walk is designed to enable a critical examination of the night-time visual environment of our cities and the planned and unplanned consequences of the myriad different light sources about us. About 30 participants were guided around a half mile or so itinerary that covered a surprising number of very different lighting environments. Night Seeing is a different way of looking at the visual scene, but a very valuable one and it was an experience enjoyed by all.



"Tidal Radiance" Photo © Leni Schwendinger
1111 Lincoln Road, Photo © Steven Brooke."



Lightwalk, Photo © Anthony Fulcher

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2010 Event Highlights



Summer Gala

Kent Bike Tour



Design Awards Gala

2011 Annual General Meeting

Richard Spencer, Int.'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

On Wednesday, January 19th a group of AIA UK Chapter stalwarts gathered to enjoy the hospitality of Herman Miller and conduct our Annual General Meeting. After a welcome drink, we were treated to Mark Catchlove of Herman Miller giving another of his hugely enjoyable presentations on the challenges of designing the working environment. A brief questionnaire completed by each member of the audience proved to be a self-assessment putting us into one of four categories of creativity: Jigsaw Junkies, Random Idea Generators, Change Agents or Sensory Creators. Mark went on to discuss the characteristics of each (cue much hilarity and the occasional rueful smile) and the most suitable working environments to support and nurture each creative type.

Richard Spencer, as outgoing President gave a review of the Chapter's achievements in 2010 and thanked the Board and other event organizers for their hard work and enthusiasm. He also thanked each of the Chapter's sponsors for their invaluable support. The treasurer, Justin Cratty, then gave a brief report on the financial position of the Chapter and distributed a more detailed report. A motion to approve the actions of the Board and Officers in 2010 was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Richard then called for any further nominations to the Board and Officers for 2011 and receiving none, he confirmed the proposed nominations. The attendees unanimously approved the proposed Board and Officers, who were thus duly elected. Richard therefore declared Elizabeth Waters the 2011 President of the AIA UK Chapter and Etain Fitzpatrick the Vice President. Lorraine King continues as Secretary and Justin Cratty as Treasurer.

Board member Alex Miller brought the meeting to a close by thanking Richard for his leadership over the preceding two years. Those in attendance were then able to enjoy more nibbles and drinks, as provided by Herman Miller, our gracious hosts and long-term sponsors. The meeting confirmed that 2010 was a great year and we look forward to another exciting year of events and social gatherings!

2011 AIA UK OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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2011 AIA Grassroots, Washington DC

2011 AIA National Grassroots Conference

Elizabeth Waters, AIA

In February of 2011, several AIA members gathered in Washington DC for the annual Grassroots conference. As president, I represented the UK chapter and was able to meet with other key international members, such as the presidents of AIA Europe, AIA Hong Kong and the 2010-2012 International Director Thomas Vonier.

The Grassroots conference is an excellent opportunity for the leaders of the individual chapters to meet and share their experiences in order to better serve their members. 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 closing keynote speech was given by Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, PhD and entitled "Speak up. You have to project! If people can't hear you, it doesn't matter what you say." This talk was particularly inspiring and a great way to end the week.

ARCHIVE Lecture

Shazia Sheikh, Herman Miller

"It's not rocket science, it is medical science: Get medicines to the people who are sick...and they will get better." Not convinced by this statement, architect Peter Williams started to explore the link between architecture and public health. ARCHIVE (Architecture for Health In Vulnerable Environments) was the result of his research, in which he formed to combat diseases such as tuberculosis (often referred to as the white plague) in developed and underdeveloped countries by making architecture central to a systemic process of improving lives.

Peter's lecture focused on ARCHIVE's work, which seeks to leverage important health issues by choosing how and where to work, the burden of disease, levels of income and prevalence of slums. Over one-hundred countries have been studied to date and the four key diseases - diarrhea, chagas, malaria and tuberculosis - can all be managed drug-free with the introduction of alternative building materials, suitable sanitation, proper ventilation and providing adequate eaves, ceilings and screenings.

It is crucial to engage with architects and people interested in the built environment to try to increase this awareness between housing and health. Peter summarizes: "Amongst the poorest, housing can and should be an essential strategy for improving health"

Maybe, it's not rocket science after all...



2011 Grassroots, AIA International Representatives
Peter Williams from ARCHIVE speaks at Herman Miller



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AIA UK Film Nights

Alex Miller, Assoc. AIA

On 22 February, the 2011 AIA UK film series began with the documentary "Havana: The New Art of Making Ruins". The film explored the lives of those that inhabit some of the decaying buildings in the poorest parts of Havana. The film discussed the mentality that the environment creates, and the resolve of the people to continue living in these structures. The other aspect the film explores is what it means to actively inhabit a ruin. The film was followed by a brief discussion.

In March we returned to the British Film Institute to screen Koolhaas Houselife, which looked beyond the gloss of the Maison a Bordeaux and took us on a behind the scenes look at the daily routines of its inhabitants and maintainers. It was intriguing to see architect confronted with and respond to the way the house is used.

Our next film night will take place on Tuesday, May 24. We hope to see you there!



Maison a Bordeaux

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Olympic Site Tour

Michael Lischer, FAIA

In early February several chapter members and guests toured the Olympic Park in East London. The driving tour covered the 500 acre site, including the support facilities currently under construction for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. With the start of the Games less than 500 days away, tour participants were impressed with the progress being made on the largest construction site in Europe.

Designers Sam Wright from Wilkinson Eyre and Glenn Moorley from Zaha Hadid joined us on the bus and gave us insight into their respective projects. These are the 12,000 seat basketball Arena and the £300 million Aquatics Centre. Other buildings on the tour included Populous' Stadium, Make's Handball Arena, Michael Hopkins' Velodrome and the Olympic Village. The Village, home to 17,000 athletes during the Games, has been designed by a variety of architects with buildings by Penoyre & Prasad, Fletcher Priest, and AHMM, among them.

A special thanks to architect Kay Hughes from the Olympic Delivery Authority for inviting the AIA UK and leading us on this unique and special tour!

