

Newsletter

No 71 Summer 2013

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

AIA UK 2013 Annual Summer Gala

Robert Rhodes, AIA

The AIA UK held its Annual Summer Gala on the 26th of June at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City of London, as the finale of the celebration of our 20th year as the first international chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The event took place on a balmy summer evening in the beautiful and tranquil courtyard of the historic Hall. We were very pleased to share this event with so many of our members, sponsors and guests.

In addition to the food, the music, the conversation and the seemingly endless rounds of prosecco, historians from the Hall were on hand to lead guests on tours of the historic building. Although most of the Hall dates from the Stuart, Georgian and Victorian periods, the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors has occupied the site since 1347; and are one of the Twelve Great City Livery Companies surviving since Medieval times.

We are especially indebted to our good friends and colleagues from Herman Miller, a long-term chapter sponsor and headline sponsor for this event, who were on hand to enjoy the evening and to raffle off a Setu lounge chair. Due to popular demand, Herman Miller also raffled off the promotional toy cars they brought with them! Hopefully the raffle is now firmly established as a Summer Gala tradition, as it was definitely a highlight of the evening.

As 2013 Chapter President I would like to thank everyone who attended: your presence is what made such a fun and memorable evening. Special thanks must also be given to our long-term sponsor, Call Print, for the expeditious printing and banner making; and for helping on the day – from start to finish. Finally I would like to recognize our AIA UK Board Members, Officers and our Chapter Executive who assisted with the organization of the event, and were there on the day to greet guests – thank you all for your time and efforts. We hope to see you all again next year.



Summer Gala, Merchant Taylors' Hall



photos by Toby Cisneros

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The Photographers' Gallery

AIA UK Building Tours Fatos Peja, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

The AIA UK Building Tour Series of 2013 continued in the Spring with the Photographers' Gallery by O'Donnell + Tuomey Architects. Architect Willie Carey and the Gallery's deputy director, Andrew Gault, hosted the tour. Together they presented the history and development of the site, including the challenges encountered during the refurbishment and completion of the central London building.

The Gallery is located on Ramillies Street at a crossroads, between Soho and Oxford Street. A glimpse of the building's corner site is visible from Oxford Street through its continuous shop frontage. A short flight of steps leads from the giant chain store avenue to a quieter world of backstage delivery doors, warehouses and the striking Gallery.

On the street level, large glass openings, provide a view of the Café which blends comfortably with its surroundings and creates an inviting composition. The exterior, finished in red brickwork with a contrasting black, attracts the attention this building requires. Seamless windows in the galleries frame photographic views of different angles towards London's mammoth shopping street and surroundings. With three floors of large and flexible galleries, a studio floor for educational activities, a bookshop, café and print sales space, The Photographers' Gallery is the largest public gallery in London dedicated to photography.

In June, the series included a tour of The Crystal by Wilkinson Eyre. The Crystal illustrates the height of sustainability in design rivaled by few buildings in the entire world. Careful attention to every detail throughout virtually defines the concept of sustainability. Architect Sebastien Ricard hosted the tour and described the history of the project from its conceptual beginning, through its detailed development and completion. His patient and informative approach elaborated every detail, both internal and external, and even extended to describe structural and M+E concept designs for the building.

The external shape of the building is dynamic and contemporary and compliments, to say the least, surrounding landmarks such as the river Thames, the Emirates Airline Cable Car and the O2. Flexible internal spaces, employing the latest technology, include an exhibition hall, conference facilities, meeting rooms and office accommodation.

The Crystal (the Siemens Urban Sustainability Centre) is a benchmark of sustainable design for future buildings and a significant impetus in the regeneration of this area of London. It incorporates high performance glazing, photovoltaic panels, energy efficient lighting, rainwater harvesting, black water treatment, water efficient appliances, ground source heat pumps, automated building management systems and solar heating, all integral to The Crystal's design.



The Crystal



The Crystal

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Voices from the AIA UK Past

The AIA UK Chapter's 20th Anniversary Year – launched at last year's Annual Summer Gala - finally came to an end with this year's Gala, but it might not be time yet to call a stop to the resulting introspection. The formation of the AIA's 1st International Chapter was actually a long drawn out process without a formal start.

Initial discussions on the possibility of an international chapter started in London in 1991. The first meeting to test interest was held in Dec 1992. The official Charter for what was then called the London/UK Chapter was signed on 17 Jun 1993. The first AGM was held on 28 Mar 1994. The first Newsletter was issued in May 1994.

And the process has never really ended as we have grown in numbers and matured in our aspirations. In 2013, we announced the formation of a new International Region as the rest of the world catches up with London.

One of our founding members, Lorraine King AIA, past President and current Secretary, has suggested that we begin a catalogue of our past and present AIA participants as part of a celebration of this growth – a sort of potted history of how/why/when each of us came to the UK or made contact with US architecture.

Some of us have interesting, even romantic stories to tell; others more prosaic ones. Some of us might have come for family reasons; some as economic migrants; and some simply because they were assigned here. But ALL the stories are interesting as part of the whole picture and belong in our archives. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Chapter Executive.

Continue reading the first 'potted history' on page 5.

AIA UK Membership

Michael Lischer, FAIA

No Dues Increase for 2014!

National dues for all categories of membership will not increase from 2013 levels. And, the AIA UK board of directors voted unanimously to keep the AIA UK dues at the same level they have been at for the last few years! Dues for 2014 are for AIA UK and National, respectively: Architect - \$165 / \$214, Associate - \$83 / \$108, International Associate - \$165 / \$182.



Summer Gala 2013

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AIA UK Members Attend National Convention

Michael Lischer, FAIA

Eighteen thousand AIAers descended on Denver, Colorado in June for the AIA's Annual National Convention. AIA UK President, Robert Rhodes and members Michael Lischer and Mike Hardiman attended the June 20th to the 22nd event. There was plenty to keep them busy with more than forty building tours, 200 educational seminars, over 800 exhibitors at the expo, and the usual committee meetings and keynote lectures.

It wasn't all work though for "our crew", as there were plenty of social events and receptions that had to be attended! The highlight of the social calendar is the International Committee's drinks reception for the international visitors and members of the overseas chapters. This event is always popular with AIA dignitaries, as it gives them the opportunity to meet leaders of many international architecture institutions and members from the five overseas chapters. The AIA's national president, president elect, five past national presidents, and a number of national directors were all present in the room to meet the international guests!

Voting took place for the 2014 national executive officers during the convention and the results were announced at the business meeting on Saturday morning. Unusually, a second vote was required to determine the Vice President/President Elect position because the race among the four candidates was so close; no one had a majority in the first round. Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA, from Corpus Christi, Texas, prevailed and was announced as the winner. Elizabeth will take the Vice President position for 2014 and will be the Institute's President in 2015. Also elected were Vice Presidents James Easton Rains Jr., FAIA, and Thomas V. Vonier, FAIA, as well as John P. Grounds, AIA, as Treasurer. California based Thom Mayne, FAIA, was announced as the AIA Gold Medal winner, confirming his legacy as one of the USA's most influential architects. And, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects won the AIA Firm Award.

This year's convention theme was "Building Leaders", and the keynote speeches addressed this subject and the profession's role in leading our communities. The closing keynote was presented by General Colin Powell, USA (Ret.), the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Secretary of State. Powell gave an entertaining speech about his childhood and career in government. He said, "Leadership is about having a vision, hiring the best possible people to work for you, empowering them to get the job done, and leading with a strong human touch."

Architecture for Humanity co-founder, Cameron Sinclair, noted that less than three percent of the world's population use the services of architects, but 71 percent are in dire need of better buildings to live, learn, and work in. In his keynote, Sinclair explained how to make this math work better for architects, and for communities in need.

This year's convention was considered a success by all accounts. Next year's promises to be even better! It is taking place at Chicago's famous McCormick Place on the 26th to the 28th of June, 2014. See you there!

AIA UK Pres. Robert Rhodes



AIA National Convention, Denver, Colorado



UPCOMING EVENTS

FILM NIGHTS

October 30, 7 pm

November 19, 7 pm

STUDENT DESIGN CHARRETTE

November 2

Roca London Gallery

TERRACOTTA FACADE LECTURE

by Maurits Van Der Staay of the Renzo

Piano Building Workshop


November 14

Central St. Giles



photo by Benjamin Franklin House

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JOHN MILSOM WILKE



IN THE BEGINNING:

AIA UK and the Benjamin Franklin House

Anne Keigher, MBE, Assoc AIA, FRSA

Although still a UK Chapter member, Anne Keigher MBE, Assoc AIA, FRSA, is now based in the US. Her letter below provides the first potted history on her initial and continuing involvement with the Benjamin Franklin House - the only remaining house where Benjamin Franklin lived during the period from 1757 to 1775 preceding the Revolutionary War. For many years, 36 Craven Street was the home address and base of the UK Chapter.

"Basically, I opened the mail in an unheated very damp and dark 18th century Georgian row house that was in danger of being issued a structural repairs notice from English Heritage. In 1991, I had the opportunity to join the Friends of Benjamin Franklin Charity and volunteered to help raise the funds and guide the conservation process. 22 years later, I am still active on both the USA and UK Charity Boards.

The Craven Street project was divided into three phases. I began the Phase I Structural Repairs in 1997 and Phase III was completed in time to open on 17 Jan 2006 - Franklin's 300th birthday. During those years of construction, AIA CES classes were held at the house so that all could benefit from the process of preservation. But it was also the Charity that benefited from the AIA's annual giving and its continual professional support.

Since opening, 67,000 visitors have toured the house. Franklin's legacy as a founding father of America is as important and relevant today as it was in the 18th century. The museum's theatre concept allows the visitor to tour the historic rooms using 21st Cent technology that blends live performances with sound lighting and visual projections and tells the importance of Franklin's London years in his own words.

The Student Science Centre has an Outreach Program supporting elements of the National UK Curriculum. To date we have had over 9,000 students learning about Franklin's many scientific inventions and experiments - such as the glass armonica and the lightning rod episodes. The parallel Outreach and Sister School Programs in D.C., Brooklyn and NYC reach an additional 10,500 seven to twelve year olds.

I so enjoy reading about all the events of the AIA and the sharing of its great success and hope that you will visit 36 Craven Street to share its architecture and distinguished long history."

Greetings to all, Anne Prescott Keigher



Summer Gala, Merchant Taylors' Hall

photo by Toby Cisneros

AIA International Region Update

Etain Fitzpatrick, AIA

The AIA International Region has now been officially incorporated and has launched its website which can be found at www.aiainternational.org. The IR Board met at the AIA Convention in Denver, Colorado to discuss three proposed motions for ratification. AIA UK President Robert Rhodes and Membership Director Michael Lischer attended in Etain Fitzpatrick's absence. These motions propose: the geographical breakdown of the Region into three zones; the method of the selection of the International Director; and, the Director/Chapter Representation and rotation of the IR Board of Directors. The next IR conference call will be held on the 5th September. We will keep you posted on updates to these ratifications. The first IR newsletter, which will reach 2,300 members, is scheduled to be launched shortly.

Student Design Charrette

Brianne Page, AIA

The 2013 AIA UK Student Design Charrette is being held for the third consecutive year in collaboration with the British Institute of Interior Design (BIID). The one day intensive charrette provides an opportunity for interior design and architecture students to work together. The date has been set, November 2nd, at the Roca London Gallery Showroom. Taking advantage of the location near the Thames, this year's theme is about life on the water. We are honoured to have the International Director of the AIA, George Kunihiro, as the head juror. AIA mentors will receive 6 CES credits and places are still available. Mark your calendars!

2012 Student Design Charrette

photos by Toby Cisneros



Summer Gala, Merchant Taylors' Hall

Emerging Professionals: Exciting News!

Brianne Page, AIA

The NCARB blackout, which started 1 July 2013 has ended! With the return to registration examinations, an exciting opportunity comes to London. Candidates can now register to sit all seven of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) at Prometric Test Centres in select international cities including London, England; Hong Kong, People's Republic of China (PRC); and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The exams internationally are \$310 per division, as opposed to the \$210 per division when taken within North America. To promote the exam availability in London, the AIA UK organized a three day ARE Structural Seminar prep course with Professor David Thaddeus October 5th-7th. In celebration, the AIA UK are hosting an ARE pub quiz at the Yorkshire Grey Pub on October 14th near Chancery Lane tube. The quiz is open to all emerging professionals currently studying as well as those wanting to dust off the cob webs and defend their licensure through the old system.

AIA UK

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