

Newsletter

No 72 Fall 2013 & Winter 2014

AIA UK



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects



Photo courtesy of Laufen

London Metropolitan University and Chelsea College of Art and Design Win AIA UK Student Design Charrette

Brianne Hamilton, AIA

Charrette '13 was a buzzing day that concluded with many great design proposals from the students. For the third year, the annual event was held in conjunction with the British Institute of Interior Design. The oversubscribed event encouraged interior design and architecture students to work together to develop a proposal for a new Chelsea Harbour Pier. Transport for London wants to increase the use of the Thames, whether it be for commuting or a night out. The pier proposals provide a design that not only allow for the functional need but also encourages visitors by playing a larger role within the community. The students took the short walk from Roca London Gallery, the beautiful event space provided by our sponsors Laufen, to visit the pier site.

The jury was chaired by the International Director of the AIA, George Kunihiro, FAIA, visiting from Japan. The jury selected UCA Canterbury for third prize and Oxford Brooks for second prize. The winning team was London Metropolitan University and Chelsea College of Arts. This was a special charrette for the AIA, as it was the 20th anniversary of the event and sponsorship from Callprint, whom without this event would not be possible. Many thanks to all the students and mentors for their hard work. We look forward to next year!

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Photo by Toby Cisneros

Bath Excursion

Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

The Bath Excursion was held on 20-22 September and attended by approximately 35 people. We started the weekend with a pre-conference tour of the Theatre Royal, designed by George Dance the Younger and described as 'one of the most important surviving examples of Georgian architecture' according to the Theatres' Trust.

The conference officially began with a walking tour led by Trevor Jones. He showed us many of the historical crescents and described the various attributes relating to Georgian and Victorian architecture as many of them are a combination of the two – only to the Georgians' dismay! We ended the walking tour at the stunning Royal Crescent, one of the most visited and well-known crescents in Bath.

After a lovely lunch break in the town square, we continued to the Wessex Water Headquarters, designed by Bennetts Associates. David Laing, a director at Bennetts, gave us a few insights into the sustainable design of the highest ever BREEAM rated commercial building.
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AIA Building Tours

Fatos Peja, Int'l Assoc. AIA, RIBA

In September the architects Graham Haworth and Irfan Alam of Haworth Tompkins Architects gave a detailed and informative tour of the Royal College of Art Dyson Building in Battersea, discussing the design journey from early project days to its completion.

From the moment one enters the building, the exposed concrete finish and the volume of the rooms give a taste of the inspirational feeling that comes from creative arts. The finish materials and details clearly define the power of the building's architectural stamina.

RCA Dyson building is not an art college as we know it. It is more of mixed use building, or creative factory. The building houses printmaking, photography studios and a large lecture theatre. Named for James Dyson, the renowned entrepreneur and design engineer, the building also has an innovation hub to assist start-up designer develop and launch their ideas. The RCA Dyson Building is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood referred to as 'Creative Battersea'.

The 2013 AIA building tours concluded with the tour of the Hotel ME by Fosters + Partners. Architect Nick Lang hosted the tour. This five star hotel, located in Central London and close to the River Thames, is the very definition of luxury hotel. The modest and elegant façade responds well within the urban context while the interior is evidence of the design quality throughout the building. The building seamlessly integrates part of the historic Marconi House. Individual rooms can be defined as minimalist with the main feature being the external triangular frameless windows. Various restaurants occupy the ground floor while the main hotel reception is located on the first floor. The welcoming element at the reception is the large triangular atrium with a small window on the top. As simple as it sounds, this is the most powerful space in the building. At the top, the hotel accommodates a bar with glazed façade all around and a balcony with a seating area which affords the most impressive views of the capital.



RCA Dyson Building



ME Hotel

Circle Hospital



English Institute of Sport



Bath Excursion - Photos by Toby Cisneros

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AIA CE Conference in Dusseldorf, Germany

Robert Rhodes, AIA

In October, AIA UK Directors Etain Fitzpatrick AIA, Lester Korzilius AIA and I had the pleasure of attending the AIA Continental Europe conference in Dusseldorf.

Part of the AIA CE programme of bi-annual European city conferences, this 3-day event took the 40+ participants on an itinerary of lectures and building tours focusing on Dusseldorf, a city of 600,000, as the urban focus for the Rhine-Ruhr region – with a population of more than 12 million. Notable buildings toured included the Kö-Bogen by Daniel Libeskind, the P&C Fashion Store by Richard Meier, and the Vodafone Campus by German architects HPP.

The highlight of the weekend was the tour of the Dusseldorf Media Harbor development – an urban regeneration project which has transitioned the historic harbor from freight and industrial use to media, offices, restaurants, hotels, entertainment on 32 sites with in-fill and adaptive re-use projects including buildings designed by such architects as William Alsop, Frank Gehry, JSK, Helmut Jahn, Renzo Piano, and Claude Vasconi, to name just a few.

While networking with our wider community in the AIA International Region, attendees earned over 17 AIA CES learning units. Like all AIA events, the weekend was made possible in large part due to the generosity and participation of the AIA CE sponsors such as Grohe, Swisspearl, Lutron, Marvin Windows, and Laufen.

Upcoming AIA London Conference

Lester Korzilius; AIA, RIBA

The AIA UK and AIA Continental Europe will be hosting a joint conference in London on 10 – 13 April 2014. The conference will be a combination of lectures and building tours and focus on 3 particular areas of regeneration; King's Cross, London Bridge, and the Olympics, with one day focused on each area.

Friday will focus on King's Cross. The centrepiece is the 27 hectare redevelopment in the area immediately north of the Kings Cross and St Pancras train stations. We will have presentations on the masterplan, and we will tour a number of the buildings including Kings Cross station, St Pancras station, University of the Arts and others. Saturday we will be in London Bridge, which has undergone significant redevelopment with More London (masterplan by Foster), Borough Market, and more recently with the tallest building in Europe, the Shard (Renzo Piano). Finally, on Sunday we will visit the Olympics in east London. We will have an overview of the Olympics development, and the extensive legacy plans. We will also visit the Velodrome (Hopkins) and the Aquatics Centre (Hadid). We hope you will join us! Registration will open in February on the AIA UK website.



Düsseldorf Media Harbor



Etain Fitzpatrick and Thomas Bitnar
(2012 past presidents of AIA UK and AIA CE)



Düsseldorf Staatskanzlei Building by
Petzinka Pink and Partner



AIA Members at Bath Excursion Gala Dinner



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Bath Excursion, cont. Lester Korzilius, AIA, RIBA

Our next visit was certainly one of the highlights – the AIA UK award winning addition to the Holbourne Museum with a tour led by Eric Parry of Eric Parry Architects. This hidden piece of architecture displays articulate attention to detail, materiality and planning within the space to seamlessly connect to the historical museum. We wrapped up our first day with our gala dinner, which was held within the museum extension itself, where guests were able to enjoy the space as well as mingle and socialize amongst the group and some of the speakers. The setting was absolutely stunning!

Sunday morning was spent entirely at the University of Bath, where we visited several buildings designed by Alison and Peter Smithson. We were also able to visit the English Institute of Sport, designed by David Morley and organised around a 'gallery' that provides a view into every sport.

The afternoon was spent with two inspiring architects – Keith Bradley of Feilden Clegg Bradley and Pritesh Pital of Norman Foster. Bradley discussed the work of FCB while touring their studios. The final visit was to the Circle Bath Hospital, where Pital described the overall design process including the challenges involved with the intricate programming of a modern hospital. This was the end of a fabulous weekend for most attendees, while a few chose to indulge themselves at the Thermae Bath Spa, designed by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw.

The event was made possible in part thru Grohe sponsorship, whose Saturday evening Gala party gifts proved immensely popular! We appreciate their continuing support and attendance. This year we will be joining up with the AIA Continental Europe chapter for a weekend in London as well as Paris. Watch this space!



Photos by Toby Cisneros



Holbourne Museum Addition

AIA UK



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Student Design Charrette - Photo courtesy of Laufen



Prof. Thaddeus and ARE Seminar Attendees

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING TOUR

February, Date TBC

FILM NIGHTS

Wednesday, 12 February, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, 12 March, 7:00 pm

Place TBC

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS - CALL FOR ENTRIES

Submission Deadline:

by 5 pm, Monday, 24 February 2014

for details go to www.aiauk.org

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS GALA

Thursday, 27 March 2014, 6:30 pm

Centre Point: Paramount Level 31

100-103 New Oxford Street

London WC1A 1DD

"TALE OF TWO CITIES" - AIA UK AND AIA EUROPE JOINT CONFERENCE LONDON

10-13 April 2014

registration begins February 2014

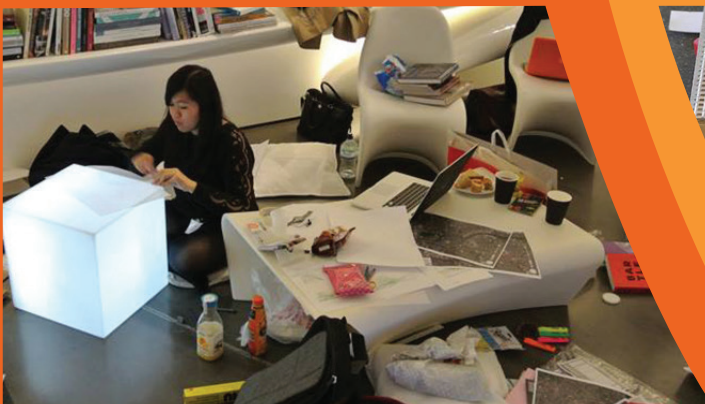
AIA UK hosts ARE Prep Seminar

Kyle Schertzing, Assoc AIA

During the weekend of October 5-7th, 2013, the AIA UK hosted an ARE prep seminar by Professor David Thaddeus, AIA NCARB, at Fosters + Partners offices. Professor Thaddeus is a registered architect and Professor of Structures and Architectural Design. While teaching at the University of Houston, he developed a review course for the General Structures and Lateral Loads Divisions of the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). Professor Thaddeus teaches this seminar around the U.S. and for the first time he taught the full 3 day course here in London!

Professor Thaddeus also continues to offer an abbreviated version of the ARE Structural Systems Seminar annually at the AIA National Convention and has since 2004. We enjoyed Professor Thaddeus' visit to London and are pleased that he will be supporting the progression of ARE testing sites outside of the US market. We look forward to his return in the near future!

ARE Prep Seminar



Student Design Charrette

Photo by Laufen



Student Design Charrette

Photo by Laufen

AIA UK Film Night

Chris Musangi, AIA

The Autumn 2013 film series started with a screening of 'Unfinished Spaces' at the BFI in late October. This is a moving documentary about the revolutionary design of the Cuban National Art Schools. The documentary tells the dramatic story of the art schools, from their founding by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, to their eventual abandonment, fall into disrepair and the current efforts to restore them. Three of the visionary architects involved with the project are interviewed about their designs, and how they endeavoured to create a new architecture in line with the revolutionary atmosphere of Cuba. They also talk about why their designs fell into disfavour, and how the complex was never completed and eventually abandoned.



The Autumn 2013 film series ended with a screening of Eric Bricker's 'Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman.' The documentary is about the life of the highly acclaimed architectural photographer Julius Shulman, whose iconic photography shaped the careers of some of the great 20th century architects like Richard Neutra and John Lautner. Shulman's iconic photos which combine the synthetic & melded nature with contemporary design, brought Southern California Modernism to life and defined modernism for the general public. Schulman talks extensively about his photography in this documentary, and especially the iconic image of Case Study House #22.

Look to the aiauk.org website for details of the upcoming Film Nights in February and March 2014!!



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AIA UK Bike Tour Upriver from Slade Green

Lorraine King, AIA

There is something particularly satisfying about braving the elements and combining a little physical exertion while earning Continuing Education points.

On Saturday, 7 Sep 2013, eleven intrepid AIA bikers (and one eight year old boy!) took off from the obscure Slade Green rail station to explore the rich industrial and architectural heritage of the eastern Thames valley under the guidance of Architect and Art Historian, Benedict O'Looney.

Seeing London from its lower regions is an opportunity not to be missed. While the familiar towers of Canary Wharf shimmered in the distance, the bikers revelled in parts of London certainly not in the usual tourist package.

Starting with a ruined Norman manor house now lost in the marshes, we passed – in no particular order – a once fashionable riverside town, a modern incineration plant, a Victorian pumping station, an oil mill with early reinforced concrete, an American car factory, a controversial housing development, a derelict gas plant, a former military firing range and storage magazines, the redeveloped Arsenal, the Thames Barrier, a concrete recycling centre, the new Emirates river crossing and finally a Greenwich pub for well deserved drinks and self congratulations after 18.2 miles of pedaling and 4 CES credits.

Benedict O'Looney's particular skill is to tie this hodgepodge of sites and buildings into both an architectural and social context. In short, he always manages to add that architectural twist that other historians fail to grasp. We are already starting to plan the bike trip for the summer of 2014 and welcome any suggestions.

