



Associate Newsletter

THE ASSOCIATE NEWS OF AIA MICHIGAN - A SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

March 1, 2007

Volume I Issue I

AIA Michigan Region

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Associate Director's Message

Fellow Associate AIA members, I'd like to briefly introduce myself to you. My name is David Knapp, and I'll be serving on the AIA Michigan Board and the AIA

National Associates Committee as the Michigan Regional Associate Director (RAD) for 2007-2008. Prior to joining the Michigan Board, I served two years as the AIA Detroit Associate Director. In addition to my associate level commitments, I also Co-Chair AIA Detroit's Urban Priorities Committee and am a member of AIA Michigan's Communities by Design Committee.

Part of my responsibility as the Michigan RAD is to be a two-way filter for information, both in disseminating valuable information from the National Associates Committee (NAC), and presenting and implementing information/ideas from you to both the AIA Michigan board and the NAC.

ARE Timing

This year is a very important and critical year for the associate members and anyone who's en-route to taking their Architectural Licensing Exam (ARE). During the first half of 2007, NCARB will formally announce their position and model law on ARE Timing by either supporting or denouncing the idea of allowing interns to take portions of the exam prior to obtaining all IDP credits. This is one of the most significant issues that have been presented to interns in decades and we need to do our best to ensure that the Michigan Architectural Licensing Board supports the AIA's position of allowing interns to take all sections of the ARE prior to obtaining all IDP credits.

On January 25th Dennis King, FAIA (2007 AIA Michigan President) and Celeste Novak, AIA (AIA Michigan Regional Director and AIA National Board Member) joined me in Okemos as we met with the Michigan Architectural Licensing Board in attempt to persuade them to support and implement AIA's position in regard to the ARE timing issue.

Although NCARB won't announce their position until June, it appears that the Michigan Architectural Licensing Board will follow NCARB's new model law.

From the National Associates Committee

There are several other initiatives that AIA National wants to enact through our local chapters and our local associate leadership - all of which are beneficial to both us interns and to the profession as a whole that includes presentations and information on "firm accountability" as it pertains to the IDP process, the "NAC Road show" and information on "The Emerging Professional's Companion".

Look for further information on informative sessions in your region in the coming months!

Final thoughts

This is the first publication in a series of quarterly newsletters produced from and for the Associate members of AIA Michigan. The issue dates are as follows:

- Spring - March 1, 2007
- Summer - July 1, 2007
- Fall - October 1, 2007
- Winter - December 1, 2007

I encourage you, your fellow associates, co-workers, and employers to submit opinions, features, news, events, awards and any other information that is important

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and relevant to you and your development as tomorrow's leading architect!

For the consideration of the publication of your submission, please email your submissions to david.knapp@akahn.com two weeks prior to the issue dates above.

Wishing you all a very successful 2007!

Respectfully yours,

*David Knapp, LEED AP, Associate AIA
2007 Michigan Regional Associate Director*



From the Detroit Chapter

I want to take this opportunity to encourage you all, as associates and directors, to reach out to fellow associates and newly licensed architects here in Michigan.

My theory - that during challenging economic climates like what we currently have in Michigan, emerging professionals often have increased access to leadership opportunities. For example, the AIA is currently looking to its emerging professional for ideas on how to reinvent aspects of the AIA to better meet our needs. Ultimately, we are being asked to innovate methods for attracting new membership and expanding participation.

Another example of opportunity is Michigan's desperate need for (and void of) critical architectural dialogue - or outside-of-the-box thinking about the built environment. As emerging professionals, I know most of us are bursting at the seams with great ideas and many of our peers have left the state to implement them! It is our responsibility to seize this opportunity in

Michigan, so let's join forces and start pushing the boundaries together.

In order to start things rolling here in Detroit, I will be creating a new AIA Detroit chapter emerging professionals committee. Firm leaders from my chapter will be asked to pick their best and brightest associates and newly licensed architects to serve on this committee. With an empowered committee such as this, I expect we'll have a sufficient group of emerging professionals that can begin to help AIA Detroit to better fit the needs of emerging professional and effectively strengthen our membership base. Additionally, this committee can begin to open up new opportunities of leadership and innovation for us.

Ending where I began, I encourage you all to share your ideas openly and reach out to your peers for support. We are all in this together, so let's do our part in shaping AIA Michigan into an organization that we are proud to be a part of!

*Derek Roberts, LEED AP, Associate AIA2007
AIA Detroit Associate Director*



From the Grand Valley Chapter

In 2007, our "Young Architects and Interns Forum" will be building our activities around the Grand Valley Chapter theme for this year; "Social Equity in Architecture and Design".

To kick this year off it seemed appropriate to have a tour conducted by a company that's a model of a socially conscious company; Herman Miller, Inc. We got a chance to view the up-and-coming office interiors and left the tour with a bottle of natural honey as a reminder to think of

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solutions to problems that are natural and good for the environment.

Over the course of 2007, it is our mission to conduct tours and workshops for the chapter associates that will build on their knowledge of social equity as it relates to their career. Some of the up coming events include an Architectural Photography Forum, a Bid Day round table between the contractors and architects, and tours including the new Grand Rapids Art Museum and J.W. Marriot Hotel, both due to open this fall.

If any AIA Michigan associates would like to attend these events, you are more than welcome. Feel free to contact me!

*Jason Carpenter, Associate AIA
AIA Grand Valley Chapter YAIF Director
Jason@classicengineering.com*

From the Huron Valley Chapter

AIA Huron Valley is currently looking into setting up a book exchange for ARE study materials. The exchange would call on licensed professionals (both new and old) to donate their used ARE study materials. With the changing Michigan economy, many firms are not able to help their emerging professional staff on the road to licensure - many smaller firms are never able to help.

The exchange will offset some of the cost for young professionals in the area to study for the ARE exam. Beyond contributing to the betterment of our profession, the exchange will also hopefully increase interest in becoming licensed and broaden our potential Associate AIA contacts. Stay tuned for more information on this effort.

In Other news

AIA Huron Valley shows support for the Remodel Green Midwest Conference and Expo March 16-17, 2007 at the Inn at St. John's, Plymouth, MI. The event will highlight the opportunities for remodeling industry professionals, business owners, residents, and community officials to reinvest in our homes and workplaces to build a sustainable future. Keynote speaker: David Johnston, author of *Green Remodeling: Changing the World One Room at a Time*. For more information, schedule & registration, please visit www.remodelgreen.org or call 734.662.6288

*Thomas Chasty, Associate AIA
AIA Huron Valley Associate Director*

From the Flint Chapter

- **February-March 2007: "Design Matters"**
Gallery show hosted by Baker College

Purpose: Public awareness and education for local architects doing local and non-local work. Architects are invited to create display boards or models portraying recent projects that they have designed and completed or that are under construction highlighting the fact that design matters regardless if the architecture is for a gas station, a private residence, a parking garage, or a new high school.

- **2007 Annual AIA Flint Chapter Golf outing**
Proceeds to Habitat for Humanity

Purpose: The event generates several thousand dollars for Genesee County Habitat for Humanity Affiliate while bringing roughly 100 golfers to a local golf course for a day of fun and camaraderie, networking opportunity for contractors, material

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suppliers, vendors, engineers, and design professionals.

- **2007 Flint Chapter AIA150 project**
New Whaley Children's Home design charette

Purpose: Associate members are helping the chapter through our AIA150 project via community organization, charette planning, legwork and research for grant dollars, code requirements, and collaboration with other local non-profits who are coordinating efforts to locate the building.

- **Chapter-wide Associate "Lunch-and-learn" sessions**
Coordinated by Co-Associate Director - Aaron Wawrzyniak

*Shannon Easter, Associate AIA
AIA Flint Associate Director*

From AIA Michigan



Municipal Facilities Conference

This event is designed to show how Government has taken a leadership position in actively developing building projects which put design first and is making Michigan a great place to live and work.

The AIA Michigan Communities by Design Committee is leading the effort to put together the first AIA Municipal Facilities Conference which will take place on September 19, 2007 at the new Warren City Hall.

The Mayor and DDA Director of Warren and Project Architect will tell the story of how they made this project happen and why it

is important to the Warren community. Other projects that will be presented include the DEQ Warren Building, Battle Creek Police Station, Niles State Police Post, West Michigan Urban Design efforts and DeVos Place, and Library Facilities and their community connections.

The event will explore the principles of good community design through these case study examples, and have simultaneous think tank sessions at which attendees can talk with representatives of the DEQ, MEDC, DMB and MDOT.



Be sure to check the June issue of the AIA Michigan "Associate Newsletter" more event details, or email aiami@aiami.com

*Michael R. Strother, AIA
AIA Michigan Board – Huron Valley Director
AIA Michigan Communities By-Design Committee, Chair*

AIA MICHIGAN NEEDS YOU AT LEGISLATIVE DAY 2007

Perhaps the most important function of our professional societies is to make the voice of design professionals heard in Lansing. For better or worse, the business environment and your practice may be significantly impacted by actions of State Government. New laws and regulations are constantly

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being proposed. Unless we work together and stay engaged in the governmental arena, changes will occur without any input from Michigan's licensed architects and engineers. Legislative Day may be the most important event you can attend on behalf of your profession. It is also one of the most enjoyable and satisfying tasks you'll perform as an AIA volunteer, and there is no fee to participate. Here are three reasons why it makes sense for you to attend:

- **You don't need any prior knowledge of the issues.** That's right: Attend the briefing at the start of legislative day and we'll provide all the information needed for a successful day.
- **Your presence alone speaks volumes.** Just by showing up you'll advance the interests of the profession. The Representatives take notice of the number of participants.
- **You'll have fun.** After an enjoyable and satisfying meeting with your legislator, there is a terrific reception at the offices of Kelley Cawthorne, our professional voice in Lansing.

This year, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects, we are hoping to have 150 AIA attendees. In addition, 2007 finds a particularly full Legislative agenda for Architects, including issues such the Statute of Limitations, Certificate of Merit and Interior Designer Licensing. We urge each AIA member to set aside the afternoon of **Tuesday, March 20, 2007** for Legislative Day. We also request each attendee find one other member, preferably (but not necessarily) from your own district as your partner for this event.

You should sign up now!

Legislative Day is a great event, a true exercise in American Democracy. We know you'll enjoy it, and we look forward to your participation. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with your questions or comments.

Sincerely,

AIA Michigan - Government Affairs Committee

Co-Chairman, Kevin Shultis

Kevin.Shultis@smithgroup.com

Co-Chairman, Fred Butters

fbutters@tmklawpc.com

Upcoming dates & events:

- **March 8-9, 2007** - 40th Annual "Health Facilities Planning Seminar" - Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mi - 616.774.2000
- **March 20, 2007** - Annual "Legislative Day" Lansing, Mi
- **April 20-20, 2007** - AIA Michigan Honor Awards & Design Brunch, Inn @ St. John's, Plymouth, Mi
- **May 3-5, 2007** - AIA National Convention, San Antonio, Tx
- **May 2007** - NAC Road show presentations to firms and Associate members, Detroit region, (location & time T.B.D)
- **July 2007** - AIA Flint Annual Golf Outing
- **July 2007** - NAC Road show presentations to firms and Associate members, Grand Valley region, (location & time T.B.D)

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