

AIA Michigan Region

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Associate Director's Message

Our celebrated Michigan summer is finally here, and in with the warm weather comes a significant milestone in the arduous architectural licensing process. For the past several years now, AIA has been working hard to encourage NCARB to ease the licensing process for interns. While the ARE timing issue appears to be minimal in its significance (requirements for licensing remain unchanged), the timing in which we take our exams has been modified by NCARB's revised "model-law". As the new model-law states, interns would be allowed to take any section of the ARE upon completion of an NAAB accredited professional degree.

ARE Timing

On Friday, June 22nd, NCARB, at their annual meeting voted to adopt a model law that allows interns to take ANY section of the ARE upon completion of an NAAB accredited, professional degree. This is a HUGE milestone for associates. This can speed up the process for us and our future interns by allowing us to sit for the exam while working to complete our IDP, not after completion of IDP.

While NCARB only drafts "model laws" it is ultimately up to each state's architectural licensing board and the associated political actions that may ensue to actually change the licensing process.

In Michigan, we're in somewhat of a quandary...

On Thursday, June 28, The Michigan architectural licensing board drafted a

resolution to support NCARB's model law and unanimously passed it. Unfortunately, that's as far as the efforts can go before beginning a legislative amendment to Article 20 of the Michigan Occupational Code, Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 339.2000, et. seq.(the statute regulating the practice of architecture in Michigan).

The AIA Michigan Government Affairs Committee (GAC) makes recommendations to the AIA Michigan Board of Directors on issues relating to legislation. This issue is no exception. While the GAC appreciates the benefits of adopting the NCARB position, they are concerned that any effort to change Article 20 could subject it to amendments that could prove very difficult to control.

In general, amendments are a common part of the legislative process and could result in passage of a bill dramatically different than the one proposed. As such, any effort to modify the terms on which one can become an Architect licensed in Michigan could result in an inadvertent compromise of the overall integrity of the licensing law. In addition, legislation is a resource intensive proposition. The GAC has a concern as to whether AIA Michigan can afford to add another legislative initiative to the already crowded legislative agenda. These concerns are valid and are scheduled for further discussion at the AIA Michigan August Board meeting at the upcoming midsummer conference.

On September 11th at the offices of Harley|Ellis|Deveraux, the Government Affairs Committee will meet with interested students, associates, and prospective members a chance to get involved in further action!

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As associates, now is the most critical time of your membership. The timing and importance of your associate membership of the AIA has never been more valuable and critical. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** If AIA Michigan chooses to move forward in supporting this effort, we'll need to work closely with the GAC to lobby our senators and representatives to carefully draft a bill and encourage them to push it through both houses of the legislature ensuring that the privileges of being a licensed architect in the State of Michigan isn't compromised.

To get involved, please contact me directly: **313.202.7667** or David.knapp@akahn.com

Final thoughts

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

- Fall – October 1, 2007
- Winter – December 1, 2007
- Spring – March 1, 2008
- Summer – July 1, 2008

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

Respectfully yours,

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AIA Detroit: Neighborhoods by Design
Marx Layne & Company

In early 2007, American Institute of Architects Detroit (AIA Detroit), conducted "Neighborhoods by Design," a



LTU's Dean LeRoy kicks off the charrette.

free community service held in conjunction with the AIA's "Blueprint for America," a nationwide initiative taking place throughout 2007 in which AIA Detroit architects engaged fellow citizens, mayors, community and business leaders, architecture students, local government officials and to her stakeholders to collaborate in addressing the distinct needs of our communities, with the goal of producing a shared vision for a more livable future.

Summary

The initiative was comprised of three related forums to define and address neighborhood sustainability throughout the region. AIA Detroit served as the facilitator for all three forums.

- January 26, 2007 - the first forum, a large-scale discussion, was led by the deans of schools of architecture of Lawrence Technological University and University of Detroit



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Mercy to identify the specific and most common issues among the communities.

- February 23-25, 2007 - the second forum, was a 3-day design charrette, which students, AIA architects and design professionals worked through and developed feasible solutions to the most common and pressing neighborhood sustainability issues.
- March 23, 2007 - the third forum reconvened the participants to discuss the solutions and present them to the communities. The presentations went as follows:
 - Cynthia Pozolo, AIA, AIA Detroit President: *Organization*
 - Jacquelyn Arredondo, AIA: *Infrastructure*
 - David Knapp, Associate AIA: *Mobility*
 - J. Michael Kirk, AIA: *Identity*
 - Frank Arvan, AIA: *Choice*
 - Steven Flum, AIA: *Recreation*
- AIA Detroit is currently gathering and compiling the results into a booklet to summarize the initiative and serve as a set of design guidelines, complete with information on additional resources for creating neighborhood sustainability, and distribute to all interested communities throughout southeastern Michigan.

The desired outcome of the AIA Detroit initiative is to articulate the results into a long-term plan for community redevelopment, civic engagement,

regional collaboration and legislative advocacy, utilizing architects as leaders, trained problem solvers and team builders for communities.

Leaders of the Neighborhoods by Design Initiative:

- Victor Saroki, FAIA, AIA Detroit, AIA150 Champion
- Rae Dumke, Hon. AIA, Executive Director AIA Detroit
- Glen S. LeRoy, FAIA, Dean, College of Architecture and Design, Lawrence Technological University
- Stephen Vogel, FAIA, Dean, School of Architecture, University of Detroit Mercy



AIA Detroit President, Cindy Pozolo and Stu Pettit lead their team.

Marx Layne & Company in Farmington Hills and is AIA Michigan's public relations consultant

AIA Detroit Update



This past June 12th, I chaired the first meeting of the new AIA Detroit Emerging Professionals Committee. This committee is comprised of 13 talented members, hand selected by their firm leaders to serve all of you. We are united in our

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motivation to establish a higher level of influence both in the AIA Detroit chapter as well as AIA Michigan. This will allow us to serve associate needs much more effectively.

To get started, we plan to organize a number of recurring events designed to appeal to associates and newly licensed architects such as you. This will include workshop events focused on ARE exam preparation. In addition, we will also be organizing social events which offer professional development opportunities such as presentation skills with peer feedback.

Another committee objective is to rally associates and newly licensed architects such as you in becoming involved in pertinent political issues which directly influence us. A good example is the ARE timing legislation. Both AIA Michigan and our state leaders need to hear from us if we want to change aspects of our profession such as this.

Lastly, we will collaborate with other local and state-wide professional organizations that have emerging professional or young leader committees. To name a few, ULI, USGBC, and NOMA have active emerging professionals interested in joining forces. These connections will likely establish opportunities for us to co-sponsor a broader range of events.

To conclude, I would like to ask for feedback from all of you about this committee and our objectives. What do you all want to see us accomplish? Are your chapters interested in starting a similar committee that can collaborate with us? How can we best serve your needs? Feel

free to email me any of your thoughts at droberts@lasarchitect.com.

I will keep you all posted on our progress. Thank you in advance for your support!

Derek J. Roberts, Associate AIA, LEED AP
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AIA Huron Valley Update

Past events:

- July 10th - monthly lunch and learn was held at Smith|Group offices (Ann Arbor).
- July 13th - WCC seminar entitled 'Geothermal and Photovoltaic Assemblies'.

*** Additional WCC seminars are planned for September and October.*

- August 6th - AIAHV annual golf outing.

Great News!!!

- AIAHV welcomes **Tamara Redburn** as their new Treasurer. Tamara, recently licensed this past year, continues the active role she began with the AIA as a past Associate Member and Director.
- **Kristen Schliek**, AIAHV Programming director, receives "Emerging Architect" award at recent AIAHV awards presentation. Kristen Schliek, AIAHV Programming director, assumes role as Michigan's Regional liaison for the AIA's Young Architects Forum (YAF).

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- The Young Architects Forum (YAF), a program of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the College of Fellows (COF), is organized to address issues of particular importance to recently licensed architects (within 10 years or fewer after licensure). The YAF is an outgrowth of a 1989 AIA Grassroots program involving 36 young architects from around the nation assembled by then AIA President Ben Brewer Jr., FAIA. The issues raised and potential benefits visualized at that meeting led to the 1991 formation of a national YAF Advisory Committee to encourage the development of national and regional programs of interest to young architects and the creation of YAF groups in local chapters.



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AIA Grand Valley Chapter YAIF Director
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Tips on taking the A.R.E

Rick Johnson, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, RB



It is inherent, or should be inherent that "good" IDP training and "practical" experience is balanced when a candidate is eligible and decides to sit for the ARE.

*TJ Chasty, Associate AIA
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From the Grand Valley Chapter

Last month the Grand Valley Associates organized and operated - "Chalk the Walk" an annual event which was held this year at the Grand Rapids Arts Festival. It was a huge success for both the Associates and the festival attendees. We put up the AIA banner and handed out chalk to kids and they drew on every piece of sidewalk they could find.



As an architectural professional for approximately 15 years now, I have learned some things in this profession. One of the biggest things that I have learned is that you NEVER stop learning. When it comes to the ARE, part of my experience is that I have found it very important to have a progressive understanding of the technical aspects of architecture. Now that I have taken 4 out of the 9 divisions of the ARE, I can safely say that it is definitely not a test of chance. Most of the work that we do in architectural firms mimic the true process of daily architectural practice but there are many technical and detailed aspects of architectural technology that remain untouched. We don't always practice what the names of the AIA documents are let alone memorize them. We sometimes call gypsum board - wall board or drywall. We don't always remember the exact

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names of "ALL" building materials (although we aspire to).

Building technology is a big part of the ARE. Everything from the construction documents division (which is mostly exactly that, documents & its legal parameters) to the building technology vignette and the general structures and building materials divisions.

I have also found that studying for the ARE provides some insight on those areas of architecture that will most certainly point out an individual's areas of weakness. Most candidates have problems with structures or MEP. This is of course because we don't practice these areas enough. I don't think that I have been involved in these areas until I became a project manager / construction coordinator in previous firms.

I now look to design-build to facilitate a lot of the missing links in daily practice and apply a robust path to fill some of the areas that normally are void. I have recently been involved in a commercial design-build project of my own and I can say that it teaches you many aspects of design and construction as being an integral process in the magic of development of the overall project.

In closing, my advice to anyone taking the architect registration examination would be to study while practicing. This form of understanding seems to enhance the brain to a level of comprehension that cannot be learned in school or even separate from each other. If you work in a professional firm and have the opportunity to have access to the valuable knowledge of your coworkers and resources, take every advantage of doing so. Build relationships

with those that have stronger knowledge in areas where you are weak. Building relationships is the best thing a professional of any kind could do because it is your character that people begin to see over time. This is the aspect of public relations after the initial first impressions have been validated.

Rick Johnson, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, RB is an intern architect with SSOE in Troy and is a member of AIA Detroit

From the Southwest Michigan Chapter

AIA SWMI/NAWIC/CFMA will be hosting The 12th Annual Golf Outing at Lake Doster Golf Club on July 23. AIA SWMI will be touring several buildings in August along with possibly our annual Tennis Outing for the Boys 18 & 16 National Tennis Championships.

The Albion Design Charrette was a huge success. The power point presentation will be on the AIA National web site later this summer.

The AIA SWMI "Column" (chapter newsletter) will be coming out first of July, look for it on line at www.swmiaia.org.

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From AIA Michigan

Mid Summer Conference

Gary Skog, FAIA, Mid Summer Conference Chair

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The Annual Mid Summer Conference is the longest running event on the AIA Michigan calendar and one of its most successful. This year in addition to our 64th year on Mackinac Island AIA is

celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Join us for this special celebration. We will again be partnering with the Michigan Chapter of the Associated General Contractors who has newly merged with the Associated General Contractors of Detroit. Don't miss this forum for fun, one-on-one contact with industry leaders, and information sharing between the building and construction industries. If you have attended in the past, do not miss this year's event. If you have not previously joined us on the porch at the Grand Hotel, this is the year to do so.

All of the events that have become synonymous with Mackinac will again return in 2007 with a few additions. Thursday will begin with AIA and AGC Board meetings followed by a beautiful reception on the front porch and dinner in the dining room. The Family Night event will again test the creativity of all our attendees, and many children, youth, and teen activities are planned. Our Bocci tournament and golf scrambles will be better than ever. Friday morning will begin with annual meetings and continuing education with first gentleman Daniel Granholm Mulhern followed by bocci and afternoon golf. Again this year Friday golf will be a competitive scramble paired by handicap and Saturday golf will continue as an informal event. Friday evening gather in the Tea Garden for Bocci Finals and cocktails followed by dinner at the Grand and a fun filled evening of Bingo and Texas Hold 'Em for the adults. Saturday morning will have

continuing education with Norbert W. Young Jr. FAIA, President, McGraw-Hill Construction and Balthazar Korab presenting a photo show. CEU's will be given for AIA members for the sessions. Saturday evening we will have an afterglow highlighting the conference events.

Please read through the program and we look forward to seeing you there!

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18th Annual Design Retreat

SEPTEMBER 7 - 8, 2007
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COMING SOON)

This is the time of year when we (AIA Michigan) announce our annual design retreat. This retreat provides you with the opportunity to talk about architectural design with your peers.

We try to expose you to a wide variety of ideas and attitudes about architecture and the design process in an informal (read: rustic) atmosphere. This is a chance to see how the problems of design are handled by fellow members of the profession.

Forget about the mundane problems in the office and think about design, design, and more design.

Please bring casual clothes, warm clothes, shorts, towels, flashlights, umbrella, swim suit,

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sleeping bag and pillow, and whatever else you need to sustain yourself in the woods for a weekend (no firearms, please...) You can expect the simple pleasures of food, beverages, trees, cold water, warm fires, and anything else nature tosses in, to be provided for you. Top it off with Learning Units and a free T-Shirt. Life is good!

Interns, students and non-AIA members are welcome and invited to attend! (Check out the package rate for students....WOW!) You can also charge the registration fee!

Saturday evening event: John Gallagher, architectural writer for the local Detroit press, commenting on Michigan's 150 greatest buildings.

For more information:

http://www.aiami.com/Events/AIAMI/design_retreat/ce_aiami_design_retreat.htm

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

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