

"Care more than others think wise. Risk more than others think safe. Dream more than others think practical. Expect more than others think possible." - Cadet Maxim

AIA 2009 Annual Convention

Preliminary numbers reflect slightly more than 22,000 registrations for our 2009 Annual Conference, "The Power of Diversity: Practice in a Complex World."

The virtual options proved to be quite successful. Many members have written to express their appreciation for the offering. Preliminary reports reflect over 17,000 registrations across the 14 sessions offered. 1,000 people a day attended the virtual trade show featuring online exhibitors with new and innovative products and services.

House Overwhelmingly Passes Sustainable Design Education Bill

On April 22, U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that will assist architecture and engineering schools in developing education programs relating to the design of high-performance buildings. The bill, *The Green Energy Education Act of 2009* (HR 957), passed by an overwhelming margin of 411-6 and would allow the Department of Energy to provide funding to the National Science Foundation (NSF) that can be used for undergraduate or graduate engineering and architecture education programs that focus on the design and construction of energy efficient high-performance buildings. Thank you to the nearly 2000 AIA members who contacted their Representatives in support of HR 957.

AIA to Update Local Leaders in Sustainability Report

In the summer of 2007 The American Institute of Architects conducted a study, [Local Leaders in Sustainability](#), that examined local green building policy in cities across the country. The report identified 92 cities that had developed green building programs and an additional 36 cities that were near completion of their own policy. Local Relations staff, is in the process of updating this landmark report by following up with the communities that participated in the 2007 study to see if they have:

- altered or strengthened policies in light of the economic downturn,
- changed incentive packages offered, and
- whether they are planning on using economic stimulus money for green building programs.

These questions along with many more will be answered in the forthcoming report, to be released this summer, *Local Leaders in Sustainability: Green Building Policy in a Changing Economic Environment*. For more information, please visit:

www.aia.org/advocacy/local.

21st Century Schools Bill Passes House of Representatives

On May 14th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would provide \$6.4 billion in grants to state and local school districts to renovate, repair, and modernize schools. The 21st Century High-Performing Public Schools Act (H.R. 2187) directs funding to projects nationwide that will improve health, safety, energy efficiency, and the overall learning climate of schools. The AIA has long-supported a federal commitment to school modernization. The renovation of our nation's schools will not only improve the

health and learning environments for students, but also will stimulate work for the design and construction industry in all 50 states.

GREEN Act Introduced

Last week, Congressman Ed Perlmutter (R-CO), an honorary member of AIA Colorado, introduced sweeping legislation designed to promote energy efficiency in our nation's residential buildings. The Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods Act (The GREEN Act, H.R. 2336) will provide incentives to lenders and financial institutions to offer lower interest loans and other benefits to consumers who build, buy, or remodel their homes to make them more energy efficient.

The bill also will expand the uses of Energy Efficient and Location Efficient Mortgages and for the first time require state and local housing agencies to assess the impact of transportation planning on housing as a condition of receiving HUD funding – proposals advocated by the AIA.

Transportation for America Launches Blueprint for Reform

The AIA joined with hundreds of design, transportation, environmental, and business groups last week to launch the Transportation for America blueprint for reforming the federal transportation system, making it more flexible, efficient, safe, and sustainable. The T4America Blueprint [Route to Reform is the culmination](#) of more than a year of discussion and debate and represents a comprehensive plan to improve the nation's transportation network, establish broad national goals for the system, restructure the U.S. Department of Transportation, and develop stable funding sources. The blueprint strongly promotes transportation planning that helps foster livable, sustainable communities, and transit-oriented development, and also endorses regional and local planning, including the use of charrettes with design professionals.

I recently attended a briefing by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), and Richard Neal (D-MA). The issue was reauthorize authorization of the transportation bill where we are finding support for including AIA proposals for design charrettes and transit oriented development.

2030 Commitment

The AIA's 2030 Commitment is a voluntary program for AIA member firms and other entities in the built environment. The program asks participants to pledge to develop multi-year action plans and implement steps that can advance the AIA's goal of carbon neutral buildings by the year 2030. The program officially launched at the 2009 Convention. I am delighted to report as of May 18 we have a total of 35 firms who have joined. The [AIA 2030 Commitment website](#) is updated each time a new firm signs on.

I hope you will all consider joining. To learn more about the program and how your firm or component can make the 2030 Commitment, contact Kelly Pickard, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, kpickard@aia.org.

AIA Continues to Provide Direct Community Assistance

The Center conducted two Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) projects in May. The Southeast Tennessee Valley SDAT was the first regional project since 2005, and included a project scope involving over 32 jurisdictions in the Chattanooga metro region. Soren Simonsen, AIA, LEED AP, fulfilled dual roles on the team as both an architect and a public official with experience in regionalism. The team's

recommendations focused on regional cooperation and policymaking, land use and transportation, and natural resource issues. The SDAT received media attention which included a sustainability series in the Chattanooga Pulse, and coverage in the Chattanooga and Chattanooga Times Free Press. The Center also conducted the Hilo, Hawaii SDAT, which was led by Erica Gees, AIA, and included Gabriel Durand Hollis, FAIA and Terry Shook, FAIA. The team's recommendations focused on form-based code design, historic preservation, transportation, housing and economic development.

New Association Management System

We have successfully transitioned the first phase of implementation from TIMMS to Net Forum association management system. This more robust system provides increased functionality for managing member data and will provide opportunity for increased efficiencies across all Components.

AIA Receives Awards

We have been selected as an Official Honoree for the Associations category in The 13th Annual Webby Awards. The Official Honoree distinction is awarded to the top 15% of all work entered that exhibits remarkable achievement. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment. There were nearly 10,000 entries received from all 50 states and over 60 countries.

The Contract Documents ad with the origami puppy won an Excellence in Advertising award from McGraw Hill. This is the fourth year in a row that AIA has been recognized for Excellence in Advertising.

Out and About

Since my last Update.....

- I was interviewed by Government Accountability Office for a report they preparing to evaluate the federal government's implementation of various green building requirements contained in the 2007 energy bill, including our carbon-neutral federal buildings provision. We discussed the 2007 law and subsequent actions by agencies and the AIA to help achieve these requirements.
- Marvin, George and I met via conference call with AIA representatives to the UIA to review the upcoming UIA Education Commission and UIA/UNESCO Validation Council Meeting Agendas. The group shared key reports from various commissions and task forces to inform the dialogue at these meetings.
- The Council of the 5 Presidents met earlier this month to provide updates on the major initiatives of each organization and to further our commitment to work collaboratively to advance the profession of architecture. We spent a good bit of time talking about how the economy will affect our members and organizations beyond the next twelve months and discussed options for helping interns through the IDP process during this time.
- I testified along with counsel and Studios to the DC Zoning Commission. The commission voted in favor of our requested zoning change.

Reminder

The AIA will be closed for business the first week in June. The implementation plans for the furlough are being rolled out. We are committed to assuring that members are well

served during this period. These include communications to our members, customers and other stake holders, updating resources to make sure self serve options are the most helpful, identifying and communicating alternate contacts for key service areas and educating staff on the legal requirements of the furlough. We will send additional information to you next week prior to the furlough.

I hope you have an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend