

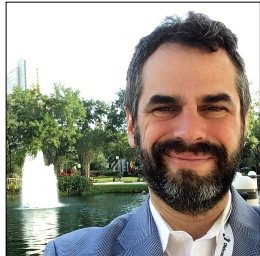


### President's Message

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### President's Message

By Gary Lader, AIA, President



*When did you first discover your interest in architecture? What inspired you to become an architect?*

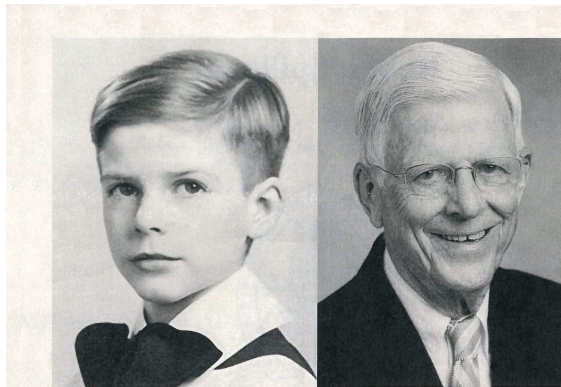
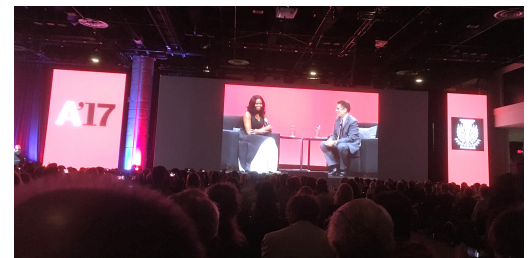
I had the honor of listening to former first lady, Michelle Obama, being interviewed by our AIA national president Tom Vonier on the first day of the 2017 Conference on Architecture. The first lady was wonderful to listen to, with her down-to-earth manner, her intelligence and her no-nonsense perspective.

When Vonier asked her about her opinion on how to get young people interested in architecture, particularly inner city children, I was all ears. Not that I consider myself an old guy, but I am concerned that we're not doing enough to reach out to the next generation to let them know about architecture and why it matters.

Even more importantly, I wonder about how our profession can attract more minorities and women into our profession? How can we be more diverse? Michelle Obama's answer to this was the obvious one: We need to spend more time talking to elementary school children. We need to visit classrooms and talk to students about why architecture matters, and most significantly, we need to build relationships with children when they're young. I've included a segment of the interview which you can find on our chapter facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/AIA-Eastern-PA-Chapter-106136976133017/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/AIA-Eastern-PA-Chapter-106136976133017/posts/?ref=page_internal)

In recent years, members of our chapter have been taking steps to reach out to students and the public at large. We continue to do yearly charettes with college students. We are about to enter our third year of CANstruction, which also involves our own children and students through a design competition that raises awareness and helps feed those who don't have enough to eat. Some of our chapter members have become involved in mentoring programs. If you are involved in an activity that helps students learn about architecture, please reach out to me or one of our chapter board members. We'd like to learn about what you're doing to inspire others!



### In Honor of Robert Spillman, FAIA

*"I have always tried to climb mountains, looking at each day as an adventure with purpose, striving for a better world through architecture and service, recognizing I am but one steward of a fragile earth."*

**Robert Spillman**  
(1931 - 2017)

Image Courtesy: Spillman Farmer Architects





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## Board of Directors

### Get Ready to Educate and Advocate in 2017

I wish to extend greetings to our membership and take a moment to introduce myself and tell you about what your chapter leadership is planning for the year ahead. I am Gary Lader, chapter president. I work in Bethlehem for Bonsall Shafferman Architects and Space Planners. I'm a relative newcomer to the Lehigh Valley, having lived here for 12 years now. My wife Jennifer and I have three boys and we also live in Bethlehem. I feel fortunate in that regard, to live and work within our community. I also serve on our local historic conservation board that covers South Bethlehem and West Bethlehem. I believe that all architects are focused on the greater good, designing beautiful buildings to help make our communities better places to live and work.

Our chapter board focuses on the following mission statement:

*'To serve the community of architects and allied professionals through education and advocacy. To elevate public awareness of our profession. To encourage and nurture emerging professionals.'*

Gary Lader, AIA, President

### 2017 Board of Directors



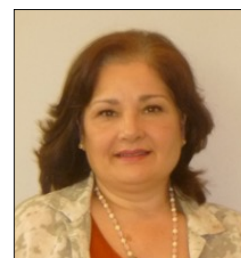
Gary Lader, AIA  
President



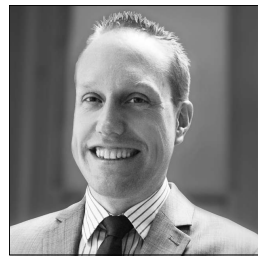
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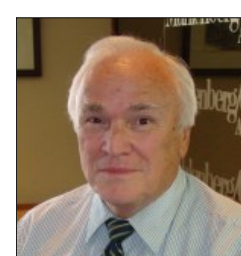
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Past President

Gina Vary, Assoc. AIA  
Event Planning

Jackie Parks  
Event Planning

Joe Biondo, FAIA  
Scholarship

Joy Cohen, AIA  
Scholarship

Zach Fatzinger, Assoc. AIA  
Social Media





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## Upcoming Events

- June 8** **Tour of NB Center for Allentown Automotive Heritage**  
Allentown, PA
- September 28** **Lecture on Biophilic Design**  
Lafayette College, Easton, PA
- October 6** **Canstruction Build**  
Lehigh Valley, Allentown PA
- October 19** **Lehigh University Design Charette**  
Lehigh University
- November 16** **Panel Discussion**  
Location TBD
- December 7** **President's Night**  
Location TBD

## A Note of Thanks to Our Allied Members

The AIA Eastern PA chapter would like to extend its appreciation to its Allied Members, whose continued support has been invaluable over the years:







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### The Year in Review



Setta Luna - Easton, PA



Office Showroom - Allentown, PA



Law Library Construction Tour - Harrisburg, PA  
(Architects Day)



Moravian Academy Athletic Center Tour - Bethlehem, PA



Slaw Precast Plant Tour - Palmerton, PA







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### Grassroots 2017

By David J. Kurtz, AIA, President-Elect



My first experience with GRASSROOTS was in 2015 when I was a new member of the AIA EPC board, having never really served in a volunteer capacity, let alone a member of the governing board. The experience then and again in 2017 was amazing. To be among 500 plus people who all serve their respective AIA chapters and organization in similar ways is pretty cool. I spoke with board members from all across the country and we all share the same goals of serving our membership to the best of our ability.

The major keynote theme was the anticipated population growth over the next twenty years accompanied by the question "Who is in a position to participate and guide where and how this upcoming population will live, work, play?" As Architects, the opportunities to answer that question lie squarely in our laps.

The range of learning opportunities beyond the keynotes ranged from how existing cities have abundant building inventory that has the potential to be rehabilitated and repurposed (the ultimate green building), tips on public speaking, managing project (people) conflict and product life cycle determinations. There was something for everyone throughout the packed schedule of events.

All in all, the event once again did not disappoint and was better than my first experience. Coming away, I felt a real excitement for our profession and the future.

### Tour of the NB Center for American Automotive Heritage

*Presented by Ben Walbert*

1 AIA LU pending



**When:** Thursday, June 15, 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
**Where:** 540 Union Boulevard. Allentown, PA 1809

**RSVP Here:** <https://aiaeasternpa.org/june-meeting/>





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## CANstruction

By John Carson, Treasurer, Assoc. AIA

AIA Eastern PA is proud to be a sponsor again this year of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Greater Lehigh Valley Canstruction event. Each year, teams of architects, engineers, contractors, building product manufacturers and even a few students compete to design and build the most creative structures made entirely out of cans. Our theme this year: ComicCan! Featuring your favorite comics and superheroes.

The goal of this event is to raise awareness and combat hunger in the Lehigh Valley. All canned food is donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank, which serves communities in the six surrounding counties.

Last year, 8 teams used over 38,000 cans to create amazing entries that included a Mack truck, a steam locomotive, a tractor and a giant Martin guitar. Each year, the teams all seem to raise the bar and entries become more creative. The competition is at an all-time high amongst the returning teams to see who can capture the judge's attention.

This year Canstruction entries will be on display at the Lehigh Valley Mall, October 6-20<sup>th</sup>.



Get involved this Fall!  
**Oct. 6, 2017**



Learn more at [www.lehighvalley.canstruction.org](http://www.lehighvalley.canstruction.org) | Contact: [canstructionGLV@gmail.com](mailto:canstructionGLV@gmail.com)







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## Architect's Day 2017

By Michael Metzger AIA, State Director



March 21st marked our annual Architects Day, and with it came the journey for many architects to our State Capital to meet with our state constituents and discuss the issues facing our profession. Every year I am reminded of the importance of our efforts in Harrisburg, and the effect that we can have when we come together as an organization. Architects Day is, in my opinion, the answer to the question "why am I a member of the AIA". It is a day that is designed to make an impact on how we operate every day, and exists to help protect our interests as a profession.

This year we had eight issue briefs to speak with our elected officials about, ranging from updating the adopted Building Code Standard to instituting Mandatory Continuing Education. A full listing of the Issues Briefs is available on the AIA Pennsylvania's website.

<https://aiapa.org/2017/04/13/architects-action-day-re-cap-2017/>

The day is always hectic, running from one side of the capital to another, then trying to find an office in the maze that exists in the depths of the building, all the while fighting through the crowds of other organizations taking photos or making speeches. In the end, speeches were made, ice cream was had by some... Penn State was there serving that! The most exciting piece of it all was that our continuing education bill passed the senate without any issues!



The passing of the bill is truly a momentous occasion for the AIA as we have been proposing the adoption of Continuing Education in the state for some time. Believe it or not, Pennsylvania is one of only 5 states that currently does not require continuing education, so it is long overdue.

I strongly recommend attending architects day in the future for all our membership. The experience is extremely educational, you get to tour a beautiful building in the capital, you get to speak with your state reps and senators, and maybe you get some free ice cream! If you can't pull yourself away for the day to Harrisburg, or are lactose intolerant, please visit and speak with your constituents in their local offices. You are our best resource in government, stop in and let them know about the profession, it can really go a long way.



### Congratulations to Joseph N. Biondo, FAIA

for being newly inducted into  
the class of 2017 Fellows from Pennsylvania!

The AIA Pennsylvania Alumni and Fellows Reception was held on April 28, 2017 and acknowledged Spillman Farmer Architects' Joseph Biondo's into the class of Fellows along with STV Incorporated's Michael Garz, Pfaffmann + Associates' Rob Pfaffman, and RLPS Architects' Greg Scott.





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## The Faces of AIA

By John Carson, Treasurer, Assoc. AIA



So what is a graduate architect who works for an engineering firm doing on the board of AIA Eastern Pennsylvania?

The short answer is that AIA is for everyone! Finding the right professional organizations to join are a difficult choices. It's an even a more difficult choice to decide which organizations you are willing to commit your time and effort at the Board level.

So why AIA? While I may not be practicing architecture, my passion for the profession and the built environment has never been stronger. I was trained as an architect; however, I have spent most of my career as an Owner's Representative assisting Owners in completing their projects. In 2006, I made the jump to join Barry Isett & Associates, the region's largest, multi-discipline engineering firm. Now seated on the design side of the table, I soon learned that I had the unique skill of being able to speak both architecture and engineering. This allowed me to bring a great continuity among the project team.....Owner, Architect and Engineer. As the project management department head, I now spend my day cultivating new work, training the next generation of project managers and still interacting with project teams to help bring construction projects to a successful end.

When I heard that AIA Eastern Pennsylvania was looking for a Treasurer, I knew that my leadership skills and financial knowledge would be a good fit for this chapter. Five months later and I have to admit that I am still getting my feet wet, but I hope that I am making a positive contribution to the leadership of this organization.

The moral of the story is that AIA really is for everyone. Regardless of your background, AIA can be a home for you.

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## Architectural Student Scholarship

By Joy Cohen, AIA

The American Institute of Architects Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter (AIA EPC) awarded the 2016 Architectural Student Scholarship to two residents of Eastern Pennsylvania. The winners are Dylan Catino of Easton, PA, a student at Philadelphia University, and Stephanie Favata of Blandon, PA, a student at the Drexel University. Each received an award of \$1,000. They were selected based on submission of a portfolio of their student projects, academic accomplishments, and financial need. Funding for the scholarships was provided by AIA EPC members with a matching grant from the AIA Foundation. The scholarships were officially presented to the recipients at the AIA EPC President's Night, Design Award, and Scholarship Dinner on December 8th, 2016. The 2017 Scholarship application, available in June, will be simplified and will allow applicants to submit most documents electronically.







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## Conference on Architecture 2017

By Gary Lader, AIA, President



It's Day One and time for the first keynote of the "Conference on Architecture 2017," which is the new official name for the annual AIA convention, this year held in Orlando, Florida. Architect Diebedo Francis Kere steps onto the stage and shares his story:

Kere grew up in Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation in central Africa, just north of Ghana. I had never heard of this country before, but Mr. Kere's presentation made it clear that it has very limited resources and that electricity and indoor plumbing are not common there. He grew up in a small village and received his architectural education in Berlin. Upon returning to his native country, he achieved some things that I would say are quite heroic and inspiring.

Using his architectural training, Kere led his community to build extraordinary schools.

In a place with a hot, dry climate and limited resources, he built schools that through good design, made use of natural ventilation and allowed students access to daylight. This is in contrast to what students in his village knew before and certainly in contrast to Kere's own childhood experiences.

The beautiful buildings that Kere designed and built also helped to strengthen his community; in fact, the entire community became engaged in the construction process. The end result was that school children desired to spend more time at their school and the building became a center for the community. He is a remarkable speaker; you can listen to (and be inspired by) Kere's TED talk at the following link:



[https://www.ted.com/talks/diebedo\\_francis\\_kere\\_how\\_to\\_build\\_with\\_clay\\_and\\_community](https://www.ted.com/talks/diebedo_francis_kere_how_to_build_with_clay_and_community).

Kere gave me a deeper appreciation of the power of architecture and how it can transform and uplift a community. We heard from several other keynote speakers, too, all noted and award-winning architects. Michael Murphy spoke of socially responsible architecture, Elizabeth Diller told of her firm's involvement with the design of the High line in New York City and Alejandro Aravena spoke about how architecture can raise the living standards of those most in need.





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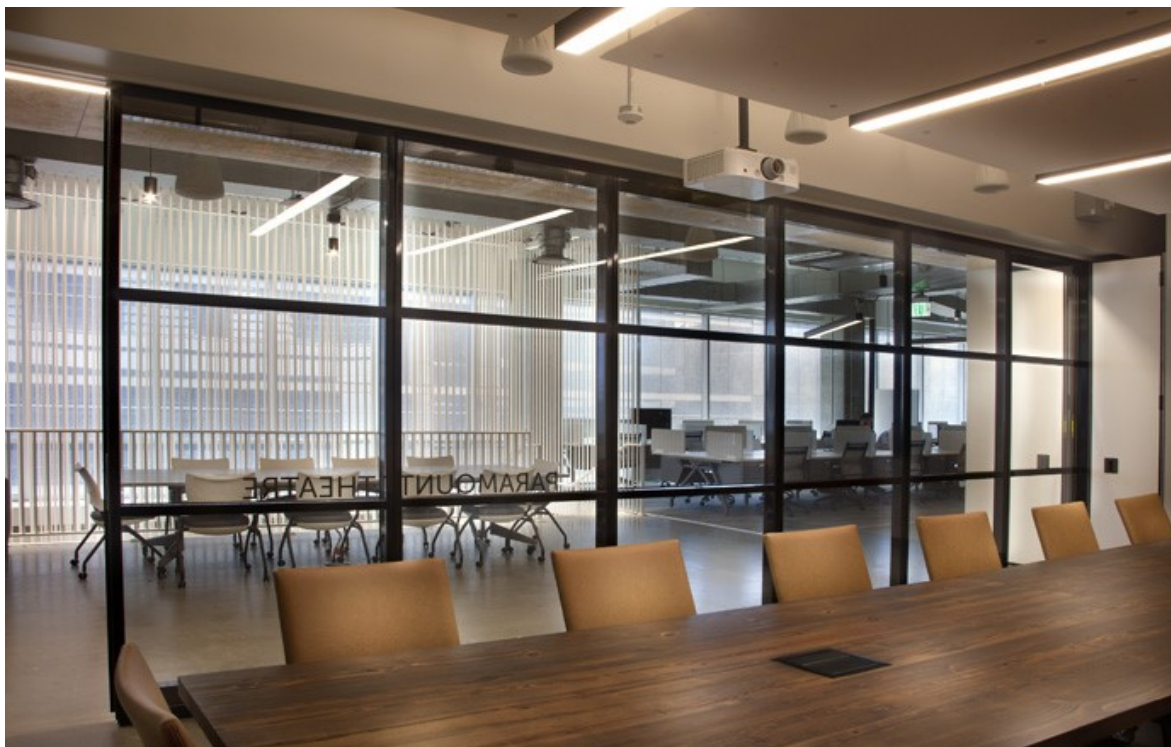
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