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President's Message

Michael J. Metzger, AIA

Summer is here in force and this week makes me almost long for those cold winter days. When temperatures are in the upper 90's I am a little less excited to be on a roof or a construction site. It's also during these times I am more appreciative for all the hard working contractors out on sites helping to making our visions come to life.

I wanted to take a moment to recount to you my experiences at this year's AIA National Convention in Denver, Colorado in late June. For a few short days, the Mile High City was home to over 30,000 architects and convention attendees. This must have been quite a scary sight. The city lent itself well to convention, offering restaurants, shops, and museums within close walking distance from the Convention Center. The Convention Center itself was a great venue and the whimsical giant blue bear welcoming attendees offered a nice photo opportunity.

The Convention kicked off in style with live music and stunt bike riders, certainly an exciting opening keynote. We were updated on the state of the Repositioning, which is now moving from the information gathering to the beginnings of implementation. AIA National has hired Kotter International, the foremost expert in change management, to help implement the next phase of Repositioning. The wheels of change are turning. Take a moment to review the [AIA National website](#) for more information on the upcoming changes.

The keynote speakers this year were Blake Mycoskie, founder of [Toms](#), Cameron Sinclair co-founder of [Architecture for Humanity](#), and Colin Powell. I was able to hear Blake and Cameron speak, both were incredibly inspirational and eye opening. Blake recounted his experiences in beginning the shoe company Toms and explained their "one for one" philosophy. Cameron explained the origins and make up of Architecture for Humanity and presented the amazing work that is being done around the world in areas struck by natural disasters. I encourage you all to look up both groups, learn more about them and their business models. Learn how giving back is not only good for the world, but is ultimately good for business.

As president of our chapter, my official duty at Convention is to participate in the election process and to vote on your behalf for National officers and bylaw amendments. It's this part of Convention that I really enjoyed the most. Being able to hear fellow colleagues step up and take leadership roles within our organization. This year we elected a new treasurer, John P. Grounds, AIA, two vice presidents, Jim Raines Jr., FAIA and Tom Vonier, FAIA, and a new first vice president, Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA. I was able to speak with Elizabeth Chu Richter, who is very excited for the future of the AIA and in my opinion will make a great president in 2015. One of the bylaw changes that passed allows Associate members to serve as officers on chapter boards. This is particularly important within our own chapter where our membership is limited.

National Convention provided me an opportunity to meet with friends and architects from around the world. I was able to speak directly with the candidates running for National office, our current AIA President, Mickey Jacob, and even took a few moments to speak with Gold Medal winner Thom Mayne. Truly a memorable and rewarding experience. I may not be voting next year, but I am already scheduling my trip to Chicago for the 2014 Convention. Hope to see you there!

Michael J. Metzger, AIA
President

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2013 Board of Directors

President	Michael Metzger, AIA
President-elect	Lenette Wells, AIA
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Acting Secretary	Katie O'Regan, Assoc. AIA
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	Howard Quaintance, AIA
Associate Representative	Katie O'Regan, Assoc. AIA

We are currently in need of a new Treasurer, Associate Representative, and YAF Representative. Please consider joining the AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Board. For more information on the duties and responsibilities of each position please feel free to contact Michael Metzger at mmetzger@spillmanfarmer.com.

Upcoming Events

September 19th **AIA Eastern PA Chapter Meeting**
Topic: Jacoby Exhibit and walking tour Location and Time: TBA

October 24th **AIA Design Charrette**
Join us as AIA members & local architecture students collaborate in our annual sustainable design charrette.
6:00pm-9:00pm
NCCC Campus

November 21st **AIA Eastern PA Chapter Meeting**
Government Affairs and Associates' Night Location and Time: TBA

December 5th **AIA Eastern PA Design Awards**
Join us for our annual President's Night and Design Awards
6:00pm-9:00pm
Location: ArtsQuest Center



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AIA Mentorship Program

On Development

Greetings Eastern PA! Hope everyone is having a great summer! We recently had our AIA Board Retreat and I wanted to fill you in on a few items we discussed, particularly pertaining to young architects and interns.

The first program I wanted to introduce is the AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Young Architect's Forum Mentorship program. As we all appreciate, architecture is necessarily an apprenticeship profession. As the debate goes on as to what should be taught in school, what skills graduates should possess and so on, it is ultimately up to the profession to develop its newest members. With such a wide range of responsibilities and fields encompassing architecture there is clearly no replacement for experience. With that in mind, a critical component in the development of the young architect is the mentor. As registered and more experienced architects, the responsibility falls to us to work with the future leaders of the profession and guide them as they grow and mature.

While a good supervisor in the studio is invaluable, an informal mentor outside the organization or company is also a vital actor. The YAF Mentorship Program will provide the opportunity to pair young architects seeking mentors with seasoned professionals in the Chapter willing to fulfill this role. There is no formal structure, simply matching those that can with those that will. I encourage anyone that is interested in the program to send me your contact information and I will create a database of mentors and mentees – that's it! Get together, grab a coffee, make the connection. Send your information to miken@mgarchitects-ltd.com.

The second program we are announcing is a short-term internship resource. As a chapter, we would like to provide a resource to students seeking internships to pair with firms that have available positions. Twice a year, once before summer break and once before winter break, we will send a note to each firm in the Chapter to see if you have availability and how many positions you are interested in filling. We will post a list on our website with the firm's point of contact and any other pertinent information – from there it is up to the students to make the connection. This is a win-win – firms can attract and identify talented and motivated young architects and the young architects can gain a little focus in their search. Look for a reminder in early October – again, send your information to me at miken@mgarchitects-ltd.com.

That's it for now. Again, this is a Forum – let's hear your suggestions for events, activities or programs!

Visit our website at www.aiaeasternpa.org for more information.

Mike Nolan, AIA



Special Report

PAT YTSMA RIDE SAFE BIKE TOUR



BREINIGSVILLE, PA JUNE 2ND 2013

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Pat Ytsma Ride Safe Update

The 2013 Pat Ytsma Ride Safe Bike Tour was a resounding success, with over 200 riders participating in 20- and 40-mile rides through Lehigh and Berks counties. Local architect Patrick Ytsma (most recently of Spillman Farmer Architects) died while riding his bicycle in Bethlehem in December 2011. The ride raised over \$16,000 for Ytsma's children's college education. On behalf of Pat's family and friends we want thank you for all your continued support.

Playhouse Showcase

We've hinted at this before, and are happy to announce that we are moving forward with the Playhouse Competition and Showcase. During our Roundtable meeting held in February it became evident that our members are looking for increased public awareness of the profession. From that meeting the Playhouse idea came to life. In partnership with ArtsQuest of Bethlehem, the AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter will have a children's village at this year's Christkindlemarkt, which is a public outdoor shopping festival that runs between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The playhouses will be small in scale, approx. 6'x6'x8' and are planned to be arranged and landscaped for public viewing. We see this as an incredible way to interact with the public, increase awareness, and give back.

Please consider joining us in this ambitious venture! If you wish to help in the planning, please feel to contact [Mike Nolan](#) or [Michael Metzger](#) from the board. An information flyer with additional information is included in the main Kiosk email.



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Note of Thanks to Our Allied Members

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

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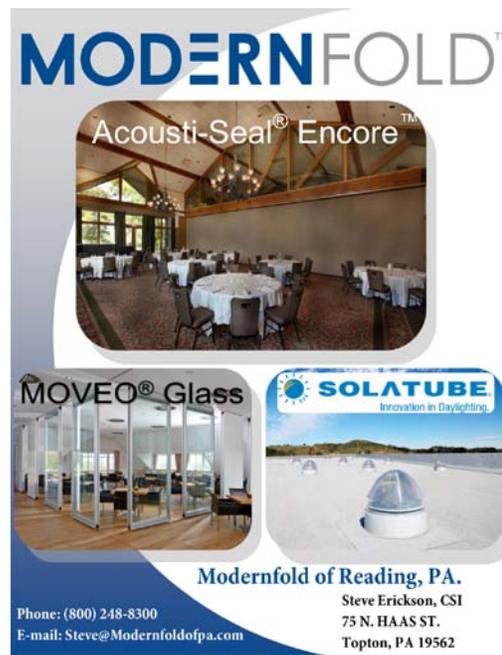
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