I’m writing from a campground just outside Acadia National Park in Maine, which has become a favorite family vacation spot. We spent the eclipse at a lighthouse, which exactly brings to mind what our chapter is up to this fall. In the beginning of the year, I mentioned that our 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.


As a chapter, it’s how we cast our light. And our calendar of events gets brighter as the days get shorter heading into winter:

September is a time of new beginnings as the summer draws to a close and the school year commences. On Thursday, Sept. 28, we have arranged for a lecture on “Biophilic Design” with noted speaker and architect, Elizabeth Calabrese. The lecture will be held at Lafayette College’s Buck Hall in Easton. For more about what Biophilic Design has to offer, see inside.

Friday, Oct. 6, ComicCon: We hold our third annual Canstruction event at the Lehigh Valley Mall, a joint effort between our AIA chapter and our sister CSI chapter. This year’s theme is comics. We’ll collect canned goods for those who would otherwise go hungry here in the Lehigh Valley.

New addition this year – a display of our chapter design award boards at the mall in conjunction with the event. An e-blast will be going out to let you know how to participate. Thursday, Oct. 19, the Lehigh University Charette, where chapter members will collaborate with college students on a design challenge.

Thursday, Nov. 16, a groundbreaking panel discussion on “Architects as Thought Leaders”. We are in the process of assembling a panel of speakers for this event and will be reaching out beyond our community of architects to sit on this panel. Many thanks to Joe Biondo, FAIA, for suggesting this idea. See inside for details.

Thursday, Dec. 7, our President’s Night celebration at America on Wheels Museum in Allentown, featuring our chapter’s 2017 design award winners and our scholarship program recipients.

Educate, Advocate, and Engage ... and have a good time while we’re at it. That’s what we’re up to!

-Gary Lader, AIA, 2017 Chapter President
Upcoming Events

**Canstruction: ComicCon**

• **Canstruction: ComicCon**
  - **October 6 - 20**
  - Lehigh Valley Mall, Allentown PA

• **November 16**
  - "Architects as Thought Leaders"
  - Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

**September 28th - Biophilic Design**

• **September 28th - Biophilic Design**
  - Lafayette College - Buck Hall, Easton, PA

**Student Scholarship Deadline Extended**

• **Student Scholarship Deadline Extended**
  - The deadline for applications to the American Institute of Architects Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter (AIA EPC) has been extended to September 15, 2017. Scholarships of $1000 each will be awarded to two students who have completed one full year at a college or university with an NAAB accredited Bachelor of Architecture or Master of Architecture program, and are residents of Eastern Pennsylvania. Recipients are 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 will be officially presented to the recipients at the AIA EPC President’s Night, Design Award, and Scholarship Dinner on December 7, 2017.

**Lecture Series - Biophilic Design**

• **Lecture Series - Biophilic Design**
  - Lafayette College - Buck Hall, Easton, PA

**PALM Mentor Program at Lehigh University**

• **PALM Mentor Program at Lehigh University**
  - Seeking Architects and Design Professionals

**November Meeting - Panel Discussion**

• **November Meeting - Panel Discussion**
  - "Architects as Thought Leaders"

Canstruction: ComicCon

AIA Eastern PA is proud to be a sponsor again this year of the 3rd 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, 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.

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Elizabeth Calabrese will be presenting the concept of Biophilia and its positive influence on promoting health and well-being in the built environment. Biophilic design is trending and it is a required component in both the Living Building Challenge and WELL Building Standard Certification programs.

This presentation will address how biophilic principles, experiences, and attributes can be utilized to create healthier habits for humans as biological organisms and how best to incorporate biophilic design into all phases of the design process. The session will also explore how taking an "eco-system" approach to integrating nature, natural systems, and processes holistically with human created systems can be extremely effective. Please feel free to download and read "The Practice of Biophilic Design" at www.Biophilic-Design.com beforehand.

Architects as Thought Leaders

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November 16

“Architects as Thought Leaders”

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

Student Scholarship Deadline Extended

Our November 16th meeting will be a special discussion entitled, Architects as Thought Leaders. The idea was put forward by Joe Biondo of Spilman Farmer Architects, who was recently made a fellow of the AIA for his contributions to our profession. Here are some of Mr. Biondo’s thoughts on the concept of architects as thought leaders:

What is Thought Leadership? Quitely, simple, thought leadership is an informed opinion leader in a particular field who demonstrates an expertise. They are trusted sources who inspire and move people to achieve great success and innovation through unique perspectives of problem solving. They have the ability to create revolutionary solutions in their field through this unique way of reframing the problem. I view it as having a child like curiosity and continuously asking the question “why?”.

Why is it important for Architects to be a Thought Leader?

Designing for the built environment represents problem solving at its core and is among the most complex of all creative industries. A field that grew out of the primitive need for shelter is now heavily influenced by the arts, sciences, environment, technology, psychology and sociology among others. It amazes me to see how complex architecture has become given that it started with a basic human need to shelter from the natural elements. I believe with these many avenues influencing our built environment, there is tremendous opportunity for thought leadership to emerge. The bottom line answer to the question is that Thought Leadership brings value to your customer base and products. People have this need to be in the know.

What can Architects do to become Thought Leaders?

Thought Leadership does not happen overnight - it takes time and patience. Architects and design professionals need to find their cause or passion for improving the built environment. “Innovation” or to “innovate” are common buzzwords that get tossed around all too frequently - what does it mean to a client? They are words that can be intimidating or misunderstood. In simple terms, innovation or to innovate is nothing more than making incremental improvements to what already exists - you see this throughout our history. Build your circle of influence; mentors and leaders in fields you are passionate about. PASSION is the key. Lastly, clearly understand the problem before you solve it and then reduce the solution to its essence!

A Note of Thanks to Our Allied Members

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

Get involved this Fall!

October 6, 2017
Employee-owned and 100+ years old, STV is quality-driven and client-focused, with a vision for the future. As an employee-owned firm, we have a stake in the business and are committed to quality performance. STV offers comprehensive engineering, architectural, planning, environmental, and construction management services, providing personal attention and timely solutions with an eye toward sustainability. And with 42 offices, we're a local firm with national resources.

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