Of the many learning sessions that I had attended, one of them focused on ‘Harnessing the Technology Innovation Revolution’. It turned out that this really meant how to make use of ‘big data’.

Here is where architects can differentiate ourselves; Architects are uniquely positioned through our skills and training to see the big picture. We are the ones that can synthesize big data, putting together many small, seemingly unrelated pieces of the puzzle to form a cohesive picture, the big vision – thus helping to solve problems at many different scales. One example that I saw on the global scale was how architects came together to help make children’s lives better at refugee camps in Syria by providing shelters and places for the children to play. These architects used data to track and analyze where the refugee camps were, the numbers of people there, and how to plan resources.

**Coming This Fall...** Each event will touch on how we as architects solve problems, and how we can address the future of our profession in an age of rapidly accelerating change and ‘big data’.

- **Fall Lecture Series**
  
  Thursday, September 20

  **David Riz, Principal of Kieran Timberlake**

  Lehigh University – Bethlehem, PA

  David Riz, Principal at Kieran Timberlake will be speaking at Lehigh University discussing his firm’s approach to design.

- **Design Charette**
  
  Thursday, October 20

  **Lehigh University – Bethlehem, PA**

  Join us for our annual design charette in collaboration with the next generation of architects and designers.

- **“The Future of the Profession”**
  
  Thursday, November 15

  **Muhlenberg College – Allentown, PA**

  Last year, AIA Eastern PA’s Panel Discussion looked at thought leaders within the AEC Industry. This year, we will be focused around “The Future of The Industry” through the various lenses of technology, sustainability, and building codes. We will hear from representatives of each sector on how we, as leaders, can remain knowledgeable, innovative and progressive in an ever-changing profession.

We hope to see you!

Gary A. Lader, AIA Eastern PA 2018 Chapter President
As our legislative session enters the final days, it is nice to reflect on some of our legislative wins over the past two years. AIA Pennsylvania has had an unprecedented session with more than four legislative wins. Under the direction of the 2017-2018 Government Affairs Chair, Marc Mondor, AIA and Director of Legislative Affairs, Amal Mahrouki, four commemorative pens adorn the walls of AIA PA HQ. Each pen is a marker of a law that AIA Pennsylvania was instrumental in passing.

- HB 409 was passed to become Act 36 of 2017 which allowed for the re-review of the 2015 I-Codes and ultimately resulted in the adoption of the 2015 codes into the UCC with minor amendments. These codes will be effective on October 1, 2018. AIA Pennsylvania was also successful in getting three AIA Architects appointed to Pennsylvania Labor and Industry’s UCC Review and Advisory Council. Any questions can be directed to Amal Mahrouki and amahrouki@aiapa.org.
- Act 40 of 2017 closes the PJM Boarders and ensures the growth of the renewable energy industry in the Commonwealth.
- SB 234 was passed to become Act 3 of 2018. This allows local municipalities to implement C-PACE funding.
- SB 1142 was passed to become Act 44 of 2018 which established the School Safety and Security Committee which includes an architect with experience in school building safety and security matters.

In addition to all of the laws that have been enacted with AIA Pennsylvania’s help, we have also been engaged in the school safety discussions around the state. Our media campaign included op-eds published in 5 newspapers state-wide, testimony in front of the House Education Committee, and testimony provided to the Senate Education Committee. Architects Action Day and District Days were a huge success and we look forward to hosting both events in 2019.

If you are interested in more government affairs updates, please check out our 2017 AIA PA Year in Review and peruse our blog posts. If you would like to get involved in one of our government affairs committees or subcommittees please reach out to Amal Mahrouki. We are always looking for input from all of our members!