

AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Windy City Hosts AIA National Convention

2014 Convention Brings Together Professionals, Vendors, National Organization



The Windy City was the host city for the 2014 AIA National Convention, and it did not disappoint. From the Opening Session, to the vendors and exhibitors on the McCormick Convention Center Floor, to the many interesting and varied tours, this Convention had something interesting for everyone in attendance.

Chicago's architecture is phenomenal and the opportunity to be in this city and see both the old and new and learn valu-

able information only added to the already terrific experience. CHICAGO! set the bar high and exceeded the mark. The tours included the opportunity to see the

works of Frank Lloyd Wright with tours of Oak Park and Unity Temple, the Robie House, Millennium Park, boat tours of the Chicago skyline along the river and many more. If you wanted to know the inter-workings of McCormick Place

itself, there was a tour of behind the scenes of his

amazing complex as well. That tour combined both a bus tour AND a walking tour because of the sheer size of the facility. You saw everything from the additional exhibition spaces to the rooftop garden from which the in-house kitchen picks vegetables and herbs to use in cooking the delicious meals served there.

All in all, anyone attending the 2014 AIA National Convention was able to obtain product and service information, continuing education credits, and enjoy one of this country's premier cities. I hope all who were able to attend this year had as fantastic a time as I did.

See you in Atlanta in 2015!



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AIA MIDDLE CHAPTER ADDRESS

If you are using the U. S. Postal Service to Contact the AIA Middle PA Chapter, please use the following:

AIA Middle PA Chapter
c/o Rebecca Griffith, Assoc AIA
P. O. Box 1784
Altoona, PA 16603

NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

September 5, 2014

Please contact Dee Columbus, Editor, tdta2000@comcast.net

STAY CONNECTED

Please send new member information and any changes and/or additions in your contact information including email addresses to:

David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA
Pennsylvania State University
1113 Physical Plant Building
University Park, PA 16802
P: 814.863.3868
F: 814.865.3737
der19@psu.edu

WWW.AIAMIDDLEPA.ORG

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- Chapter Officers
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Message from the President

Tom Columbus, Jr., AIA, LEED AP

Just one word . WOW! It was a very fulfilling AIA Convention in Chicago in a number of ways! First off, I was very pleased and happy to represent the Middle Chapter in hearing candidates, stay in tune with the PA caucus, and finally voting on a number of items, including Officers for the 2015-2016 year. The votes were tallied and our friend Bill Bates, AIA, Pittsburgh Chapter was elected as one of the two National Vice-Presidents! Bill has been and remains a friend of the Middle Chapter. He has attended our Symposium in the past, and a couple of our meetings. It has been a pleasure knowing him for over 25 years. The other candidates elected were Russell Davidson, FAIA for Vice President/President Elect, Francis Pitts, FAIA for the second Vice President with Bill, and John Padilla, AIA for Secretary.

The next vote was in regards to our restructuring program which has been formulating for over a year and a half. I am pleased to report the first step was approved for reducing the National Size of the Board of Directors and creating a small strategic council to better address the needs of all Chapters. Of the voting members there approximately 75% voted yes for the above. I was surprised that 25% voted no. The no voters seemed to say the reduced board should handle the tasks the strategic council would do.

Between voting I was able to do some wonderful tours of Chicago architecture. As you know, Chicago is without a doubt, one of the bread baskets of architecture. A guided tour through Oak Park near Frank Lloyd Wright's studio gave our group an eyeful of prairie style homes he and other architects did. They were juxtaposition among different styles (Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, etc.) of the same era. At times I wondered how Wright was not %drummed+out of town with this new style.

Millennium Park was another tour which contained incredible sculpture and Frank Gehry's world famous Pritzker Pavilion. For those of you that go to the convention, the tours are a wonderful way to obtain continuing ed credits. The styles are explained and discussed in context by knowledgeable tour guides. Please check out the separate article in this newsletter on the convention which is accompanied by excellent photos.

I strongly urge you to consider some form of donation to our Pennsylvania Architects PAC. Stephen Swarney, our AIA PA Executive Director, is diligently working on our behalf in Harrisburg for many causes. PAC donations become a tool he uses to help the cause. Stephen will be attending (with others) our Exec Committee Meeting in August.

Finally keep in mind one of our next general membership meetings in the upcoming fall season will be for voting in our new Middle Chapter Officers for the 2015-2016 years. Please consider coming and voting. Flyers will be sent.

Until next time,
Tom

AIA Associates Corner — 2014 Links

Safiya Hodari, Associate AIA

AIA PA Regional Associate Director
safiya.hodari@gmail.com

Joanna Beres, Associate AIA

AIA PA Associate Director
joannaberes@gmail.com

David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA

PA Associate Committee Member
der19@psu.edu

Sean Sheffler, AIA

PA Coordinator, Intern Development Program (IDP)
idpcoordinator.pa@gmail.com
https://twitter.com/IDP_PA

Executive Director's Corner

AIA Pennsylvania

Well, the state's mandated time to have a budget in place came and went. The legislature passed a budget with no new taxes but failed to address any of Governor Corbett's big-ticket reform items. Nothing was done on pensions, liquor privatization or any of the other issues the governor wanted done before he would sign the budget. The House and Senate have essentially adjourned for the summer and there's still no budget with the governor's signature. Speculation ranges from calling the legislature back to Harrisburg for a special session to address pension reform to the governor using a line-item veto that would address certain specific lines of the budget. It's anyone's guess as to what will happen. However, there seems to be a growing consensus that his options are few and none of them look good.

As for our issues, we continue to push for passage of House Bill 2124 (revamp of PlanCon), passage of mandatory continuing education (stalled in committee), and some favorable fixes to the Mechanic's Lien law. We did have some victories (pending the budget becoming official.) The budget lifts the moratorium on PlanCon funding even though it remains woefully underfunded and the budget retains the Historic Preservation Tax credit. Remember, our goal is to be the voice of the construction industry. How will you help us?

— Stephen Swarney, J. D. Executive Director, AIA Pennsylvania

(Reprinted with permission)

Walking Tour Through Oak Park Neighborhood Memorable Experience

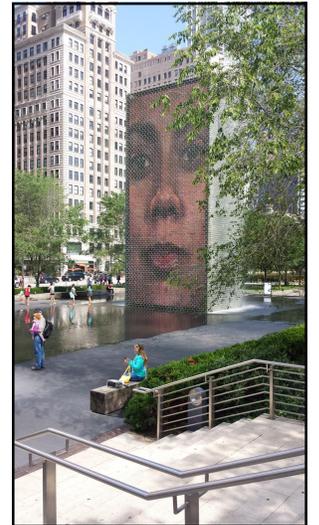
When we are attending the AIA National Convention, we take the advice of some good friends who told us a while ago that we should do some of the walking tours that are available during the convention. Well, these have been some of the best experiences that we have had, and this year was no exception. While at the convention in Chicago this year, we were fortunate to be a part of the walking tour of the Oak Park, Illinois, neighborhood of Frank Lloyd Wright. Although we were not able to tour the interiors of these magnificent homes, seeing the exteriors of Wright, Watson, Moore, and others was quite impressive. Below are just some of the photos of homes that we saw.

Wright's First Home and Studio



Homes by Wright and other Architects





Foster Appointed Director of Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Penn State

Kelleann Foster, RLA, ASLA, Penn State Landscape Architecture faculty member since 1989, has been appointed director of the Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and associate dean of the College of Arts and Architecture at the University for a two-year term. Since fall 2013 she has served as interim director of the school, which also includes the college's Graphic Design program.

Foster, a Penn State alumna with a B.S. in landscape architecture, is currently the lead faculty for the [online Geodesign Graduate Programs](#) at the University. Within the Department of Landscape Architecture, she previously served as assistant department head (2001. 08) and interim department head (2009. 11).

Foster, who holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Massachusetts, has 30 years of professional practice experience as a landscape architect and has received numerous awards in her field, including the Presidential Award of Excellence from the Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) for her book, *Becoming a Landscape Architect: A Guide to Careers in Design*, originally published in 2010 by John Wiley & Sons with a Chinese version published in 2014. She has also received Merit Awards from the chapter for the *State College Borough Design Guide* and the Land Use Management Program, which was completed for 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a leading advocate for responsible and efficient land use. 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania is a client of the Visual Interactive Communications Group (VICgroup), of which Foster was a managing partner from 1996 to 2013. In addition, she was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the ASLA Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter for leadership in the authoring and production of a CD on landscape architecture schools in Pennsylvania.

Foster has published extensively and presented papers and lectures at meetings around the world. During a recent sabbatical, based at Esri's World Headquarters in Redlands, Calif., she researched how Penn State's new online geodesign programs could most effectively engage students in a collaborative, virtual studio environment. Her search resulted in the creation of three new graduate programs: a Geodesign Option in the MGIS degree, a Graduate Certificate in Geodesign and a Master of Professional Studies in Geodesign, all offered online through Penn State's World Campus.

Before joining the Penn State faculty, Foster taught at Temple University and worked at landscape architecture firms McCloskey and Faber, P.C., and Sullivan Associates, P.C., in the Philadelphia area. Other leadership roles include serving as chair of the Penn State University Tree Commission for 16 years, through which she established the Campus Heritage Tree Program. Outside Penn State, she was a board member and former president of ClearWater Conservancy, a land trust and natural resource conservation organization in central Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, American Planning Association and American Society of Landscape Architects.

Amy Milgrum Marshall
Penn State College of Arts and Architecture

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