Sixth Annual AIA London/UK Design Award Results

The awards ceremony was held at the Royal Society of Arts Monday, 31 January at 6:30pm. The winning projects, with the jury's comments, are:

**Design Award**
Millennium Wheel, London, Marks Barfield Architects
*Is an extraordinary object which transforms our perception of London; it is a celebration of play achieved with elegance and enterprise.*

Murray Grove Housing, London, Cartwright Pickard Architects
*Continues the Peabody Trust tradition of experimental, affordable housing while setting new standards for modular construction.*

**Design Commendations**
Canary Wharf Station, London, Foster and Partners
*Part of the excellent new Jubilee Line Extension, this is an exciting spatial experience with its knowing play of volume and light; the station continues the tradition of London's grand public projects.*

Workshop for Georgina van Etzdorf, Wiltshire Simon Conder Associates,
*This is a structure of commendable modesty and originality. Carefully judged, the building interprets traditional motifs in an elegant modern language.*

Museum of World Culture, Gothenburg, Brisac Gonzalez Architecture,
*This is a scheme which shows great promise. The drawings suggest a vision of a public project which achieves its character through the articulation of flowing space.*

The jurors, Daniel Libeskind (Berlin), Ian Davidson (Lifshutz Davidson), Ricky Burdett (London School of Economics), with the non-voting chairman David Leventhal (Kohn Pedersen Fox), praised the quality and variety of the projects and cited the importance of the AIA Design Award program which seeks to encourage and reward good design.

**Design Diplomacy, Public Policy and the Practice of Architecture**
September 6-9, 2000 - Copenhagen, Denmark
http://wwwearchitect.com/pia/intlmkt/dennk_c

For an in-depth look at how architectural and urban design objectives can shape sound public policy, join us for this four-day conference. Hear from an international panel of architects, high-level government officials, and other policy and decision makers. Enjoy beautiful Copenhagen, where good design permeates every aspect of life. Meet the US Ambassador to Denmark, who is also a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Stay and tour the architecture and culture of Denmark. This conference promises to inspire and inform your commitment to leadership - in your community, in the political process, and in your advocacy of good design.
MEET SOME NEW MEMBERS

Haoman Wong, AIA, has worked at Gensler since 1993. He transferred from the NYC office to London in July 1999 to gain first-hand experience in UK architecture, as well as to take advantage of opportunities to travel.

Haoman was born in Malaysia and came to the United States to attend architecture school at the University of Cincinnati. He is currently working on the masterplanning project at Canary Wharf and interior fitout projects for IBM. He enjoys London, and finds it in many ways quite similar to New York, a very walkable city.

Paul Wellings-Longmore, AIA, RIBA, is a director at Hunter and Partners, a multi-disciplinary practice of 140 people. He used to be with HOK, where he found out about and joined AIA London/UK through membership chair Michael Lischer.

Paul recently completed a Masters degree in interdisciplinary design at Cambridge University. His final thesis was on American architectural practices in the UK. He concluded that American practices here are now finding it difficult to work due to a change in the British business climate. When US firms first arrived in the late 1980s, they found a lot of forward-looking clients who wanted to build fast and efficiently, yet wanted American expertise that wasn't available from local practices. Since then, Paul says, the recession dampened all practices, while there has been a demand for smaller offices and a lack of reform of the building process. The result is a resurgence of The British Way of Doing Things, which by definition penalizes American firms, forcing them to act more like British practices.

Paul came to Hunters to lead the design direction of the practice. One of his main challenges is to establish an identity across all of the sectors in which the firm works. Paul wants their buildings to be recognizable as a Hunters' product. His first project there was to reconfigure the public areas and external façade of the London Hilton Park Lane. The £10 million project should be complete by the end of March. Hunters will continue to work with the Hilton under the terms of a long-term contract for continuing architectural services.

The firm was established in 1955, and now has offices in Hammersmith and Chichester, with affiliates in New York and Kuala Lumpur. Hunters is essentially an architectural and building surveying firm. Their current projects include an evaluation of a £20 million mental health-care facility, the design of a 130-bed hotel in West London, the design and construction of a 90,000 square-foot office building in Maidenhead and social housing in East London.

Liz Addison, Prof. Affil., is the Marketing Manager at RTKL. She attended Edward Allys School in Dulwich, then did a marketing degree at the London Institute, followed by employment in marketing at Browns, a computer software firm. She started her own jewellery-design firm and then joined the marketing staff at HOK for three years. Liz's interest in design developed through her parents. Her mother was a fashion designer and her father, Terry Addison of AMG Associates, was then a partner with YRM, a large American design practice.

Liz joined RTKL at a time when they were beginning to restructure their marketing. Previously, they had one marketing coordinator, focusing on immediate opportunities with little time left over for proactive marketing. Now a team of three is facing Europe, intent on building the RTKL brand and "shouting a bit louder that RTKL is here." The firm has been divided into sectors, each having a director head leading a team of specialists. Hospitality, entertainment and leisure, interiors, health care, retail, mixed use, corporate, urban planning, and environmental graphic design are the principal sectors in London. Liz says they are just beginning to investigate residential market and historic preservation.

Articles by Justine Kingham.
Reciprocity and US Residency Requirements

One of the key goals of AIA/London is to achieve reciprocity between the UK and the US.

An AIA member recently renewed their New York State architectural registration, and noticed that renewal was limited to US citizens or "an alien granted conditional entry pursuant to Section 203(a)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act as in effect prior to April 1980; or non-immigrant with INS approved VISA." A non-technical reading implies the requirement of a green card.

The issue was raised with AIA National. David K. Perdue, associate general counsel for the AIA in writing to the NY state board said:

"It appears that New York may be unaware that the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (8 USC 1611) (Welfare Reform Act) was amended in 1998 so that non-resident professionals can receive and renew licenses even if they are not in the US on a valid visa.

"The Noncitizen Benefit Clarification and Other Technical Amendments Act of 1998 (PL 105-306), in section 5, amended the Welfare Reform Act to insert "the issuance of a professional license to, or the renewal of a professional license by, a foreign national not physically present in the United States" as an additional exception to the disqualification language of section 401(c)(2) of the statute. The House Report states that the purpose of this amendment is to implement the NAFTA requirement to minimize or eliminate citizenship and residency as prerequisites to licensing."

This clarifies an issue that could have been a sticking point in US/UK reciprocity negotiations. If any members are aware of similar clauses in other states, we would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of AIA/London.

Lester Korilis, AIA, RIBA
lester.korilis@fosterandpartners.com

New SmithKline Beecham Worldwide Headquarters

The new SmithKline Beecham Worldwide Headquarters project can currently be seen rising from the skyline in Brentford. Its 16 story tower is the first major building visible as one heads toward London on the M4 from Heathrow. It was designated a 'gateway' project by the Royal Fine Arts Commission in recognition of its image potential along this important axis, and its visibility from aircraft on their final approach to the airport.

The project is significant not just because of its size – about 1,000,000 gross square feet – but also because of its architectural and interior design features:

§ A double curved all-glass tower facade
§ 135 metre, 450 feet long glazed 'street'
§ extensive incorporation of artworks, both interior and exterior
§ suspended pedestrian bridges connecting all levels across the 'street'
§ office areas and ceilings flexibly designed on curved floor plates

The master plan and shell & core of the building were designed by The Hillier Group, with the support of RHWL Ltd Architects. The interior design and furnishings are by Swanke Hayden Connell.
So? What's in it for you?

So! What's in it for you? Are you one of those people who have said to themselves “The dues for the AIA London chapter are a necessary evil”? Do you believe that you HAVE to pay, as you cannot practice in the UK without it? That the National AIA will penalise you if you did not join and pay your dues to the Local Chapter? You are probably right on all counts but...Why look upon it as a real bummer? Ask yourself: “This Chapter is MY chapter who I pay good money to”...So...Ask yourself: “What do I get in return?”

Well!...What do you get in return? What do you want in return?...At the end of the day it is your Chapter and it is there to serve YOU.

The Chapter Board convenes on the first Wednesday of every month, normally at one of their Member’s practices in London. At these meeting there is a whole raft of issues discussed from what wine shall we have tonight?...Pass the cheese...to Reciprocity...yes ok, for you 'Brits' amongst us this might be a difficult one to understand. Can I see you diving for the dictionary?...Events, membership, education, AIA/RIBA liaisons, communications, awards...and...Yes you have guessed it, money and sponsorship. Herman Miller is our corporate partner and generous contributor. For those who did not attend the Riverboat Cruise, I tell you it was fantastic. Music, wine, dancing, lashings of food, prizes and heaps of...Well I am not saying so don’t ask! The price was subsidised by Herman Miller, making it a great success as it allowed more people to attend.

If you really want to get into the swing of things, there is a BBQ Saturday 23 September, at Portsmouth University, hosted by member Wendy Potts. Sir Colin Stansfield Smith will give a talk on the Portsmouth University buildings, followed by a tour of the campus. For all of you that have been to one of these BBQs before, you will know that Steve Reinke is a must...the Master Chef with flare and panache. He makes a mean BBQ sauce from a secret family recipe...So Steve: hope you can make it.

Now membership. Who out there believes you have escaped our clutches? Well you may think you are elusive and you will probably stay that way but I ask: Why not join the fun? The monthly get togethers, pub nights, the networking, exchanging email addresses, and, for those academics amongst us, a mixing of architectural culture. We have a tendency to criticise our fellow architects’ work, but each and every one of you know the sweat, blood and tears that goes into delivering buildings, a work of Art...did I hear you say YES?...and for little financial return. Well that may be the case but the organised monthly visits are intended to give you an insight into the thinking and philosophy behind each project. You have the opportunity to meet the teams behind the schemes...to question, to touch, to see...Then and only then you can criticise, but from a position of knowledge, not ignorance...

The Board is working behind the scenes forming alliances with the RIBA, CLAWSA and other groups. Organising Design Charrettes, Awards, at the same time trying to raise cash through sponsorship, dealing with CPD issues and the infamous Reciprocity issue, all of which represent the serious side of the Chapter and is of importance to all AIA members.

So?...The big question...Do not ignore us...if you are not using the Chapter at least tell us why...what would make it more vibrant...More provocative...more alive for YOU?

By David Lockwood dslockwood@dial.pipex.com
2000 Directory Errata
The 2000 Chapter membership directory was recently published and a couple of errors have been identified. Yasin Visram (020 7404 3377, yvisram@kka.co.uk), is a Chapter Director and should be listed in the Chapter Officers & Directors section. Elizabeth Casqueiro's name and email (casqueie@ebrd.com) are misspelled in the Chapter Officers & Directors section. Please accept our apologies for these errors, and advise us of any others we may have overlooked.

Become a Member of RIBA
Join RIBA and signal to the world that you are a serious and trustworthy architect who has made the grade. AIA members can receive benefits such as use of the RIBA affix (applicable only outside the UK, unless you are registered with ARB), discounts on the RIBAJournal, entry in the online member directory, CPD Personal Development Plan, weekly RIBAWorld emails, and access to practice services and the comprehensive online reference catalogue. Corporate members also contribute to the cultural activities of the RIBA, helping it to sustain a growing public interest in architecture, to celebrate diversity, to maintain standards and to campaign for a better environment. For an application and more information, contact: Harriet Armstrong Membership Development Officer Royal Institute of British Architects 66 Portland Place London W1N 4AD Telephone: 44 (0) 20 7307 3650. Fax: 44 (0) 20 7255 1541. Email: harriet.armstrong@inst.riba.org

Are you interested in being an AIA correspondent?
AIArchitect, the Newspaper of America's Community of Architects, is looking for a correspondent from the London/UK chapter. Any article of any length is welcome anytime. However, if you are willing to regularly submit on a quarterly basis, your efforts would be more than appreciated. The AIA National members would be interested in hearing about projects, events, or any other issues occupying their counterparts in London and the UK. Contact Stephanie Stubbs on 202 626 7439 or email sstubbs@aiarchitect.org for more information.

Altered States of America
Photographers' Gallery 2 June - 24 September

"In the United States, there is more space where nobody is than where anybody is. That is what makes America what it is."
Gertrude Stein
The Geographical History of America, 1936

It has been called the American Century and certainly the United States has ended this era as the world’s dominant political, economic and cultural power. Altered States of America, a series of linked exhibitions which explore passages in America’s post-war life. From the optimistic years following the Second World War, to the dark days of Vietnam, to the conflicting dreams which drive America at the end of the century, the continent is seen through the eyes of both insiders and outsiders. Photographers as diverse as Garry Winogrand (US), Karin Apollonia Muller (Germany), Catherine Opie (US), Julius Schuman (US), Dolores Marat (France), and Nat Finkelstein (US), focus on the geography and culture of the American city. Modern legends join the newest contemporaries to present street photography, portraiture, architectural photography and panoramic landscapes.

The Photographers' Gallery, 5 Great Newport Street, London WC2H 7HY 020 7831 1772

AIA/UK

Altered States of America
Schedule of Exhibits

The Man in the Crowd:
The Uneasy Streets of Garry Winogrand
8 Great Newport Street
2 June - 30 July
1960s portraits of a society caught unaware.

Angels in Fall: Karin Apollonia Muller
5 Great Newport Street
2 June - 30 July
NYC and LA cityscapes.

Catherine Opie
8 Great Portland Street
9 August - 24 September
Domestic portraits of lesbian families in the US.

Julius Schuman
5 Great Portland Street
9 August - 24 September
Pictorial form to post-war utopian architecture.

Print Sales & Exhibitions:
A New York Odyssey:
Photographs by Dolores Marat
23 May - 8 July
Filmic moments in sepia.

It Was a Great Party:
A Retrospective of Photographs by Nat Finkelstein
9 August - 24 September
Court photographer to Warhol's Factory.
The AIA/UK Newsletter
The Newsletter is published quarterly.

The Newsletter is a service provided by AIA members in the UK to the profession, the public, and anyone interested in the activities of design professionals working abroad.

The London Chapter of the AIA would like to extend its condolences to the family of member John Michael Austin-Smith, Hon FAIA, who passed away in December.

AIA/UK
is generously sponsored by the following organizations. Thank you Call Print, Herman Miller, and Interface for your support.